

Parliamentary Portraits ;
OR,
CHARACTERS
OF THE
BRITISH SENATE,
CONTAINING
THE POLITICAL HISTORY,
WITH
Biographical Sketches
OF THE
LEADING MEMBERS of the LORDS and COMMONS.
TO WHICH IS PREFIXED,
A REVIEW
OF THE
PRESENT ADMINISTRATION,
ALSO A
Reference to the Names, and a Copious Index.
DEDICATED TO THE
Right Hon. HENRY ADDINGTON,
SPEAKER of the HOUSE of COMMONS.

By the AUTHOR of the BEAUTIES of
FOX, NORTH, AND BURKE,
First published in 1783.

IN TWO VOLUMES,
VOL. I.

LONDON :

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For the AUTHOR, and Sold by T. BELLAMY, No. 12, King Street,
Covent Garden. 1795.

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THE POLITICAL HISTORY

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A REVIEW
 OF THE
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By MR. HENRY ADDINGTON,
 SECRETARY OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.

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TO THE

RIGHT HONORABLE

HENRY ADDINGTON,

SPEAKER

OF THE

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

SIR,

NOTHING is more common than for an author to dedicate his work to some person placed by his superior qualities in the higher distinctions of life.

On the present occasion, I shall, no doubt, be thought to derive no little gratification in this respect, in presuming to address the following sheets to you, Sir, who have been raised by the splendor of your talents, to the most honorable situation ever enjoyed by a British subject.

Nor will the circumstance of your being Speaker of the House of Commons constitute the only memorable part of your history. The period at which you were chosen to that exalted situation, the most interesting, perhaps, ever known, and such as to call for the exercise of the most enlarged capacity, will form a still more striking *trait*. The experience had of your abilities amidst a series of the most important transactions has fully justified the expectations entertained of you. To your own politeness and address, you have happily united the judgment of an Onslow, the knowledge of a Norton, the industry of a Cornwall, and the dignity of a Grenville.

Posterity,

DEDICATION.

v

Posterity, too, will look back and trace in the consideration of your high office a brilliant epoch, as it were, in the munificence of the British Parliament. Impelled by a strong sense of your merit, their esteem for the individual led them to consult the dignity of the station. They justly felt the people of England to be immediately interested in the consequence of their Speaker, and with an unanimity that does you the highest honor, they thought themselves called upon to render the greatest situation, what it most undoubtedly ought to be, equally free and independent.

I might derive no little satisfaction in the notice of your private virtues, but that the extent and variety of language has already been tried in doing justice to the nicer sensibilities of your heart, by the first characters of the age. In short, Sir, no one has ever been praised so much, and what cannot fail to give you great pleasure, no one has ever been thought more deserving of it.

I will only beg leave to add my sincere wishes, that you may long live, equally to your own happiness and the honor of your country, and that you will have the goodness to allow me to subscribe myself with the utmost deference and respect,

SIR,

Your most devoted

Humble Servant,

THE AUTHOR,

October 1, 1795.

REVIEW

REVIEW

OF THE

PRESENT ADMINISTRATION.

THE high character of the present ministry, and the general confidence reposed in them, may be attributed to two causes, the wisdom and justice of their measures, and the sinister designs of opposition.

Mr. Burke has very properly defined the word *party* as opposed to that of *faction*. *Party* he calls a concurrence of men in a laudable and honest cause, having a just end in view: *faction* an indifference to the end, so it answers the immediate purpose, *be that purpose right or wrong*.

Whatever talents may be possessed, or whatever pretences may be made use of by a set of men, actuated by a love of office, or thirst of power, there is a thing called *Common Sense*, by which the people will be guided in their judgment. It is the great charter of the human mind, and cannot be infringed upon, or violated by the most splendid shew of reason, or any argument however it may be dressed out in the trappings of the most refined art and ingenuity.

In all the various concerns of life, common sense is the standard by which every action ought to be determined, and whatever is contrary to that, may always be deemed a sufficient and well-grounded occasion for jealousy and suspicion.

Opposition were never more sensible of this than on the famous coalition between Lord North and Mr. Fox, in the year 1783. Though this was attempted to be justified and coloured over with an effrontery that could be equalled only by the want of principle in which it originated, the people instantly saw through the political turpitude of the transaction. They plainly perceived, that all recollection of the wrongs and oppressions which Mr. Fox had for ten years been telling them of, in all the variegated

riegated tints of the most fanciful aggravation, were to be sacrificed to the personal ambition of himself and others, the very moment an opportunity offered for doing it,

This insult to their understanding, and audacious departure from every principle of justice, was properly felt and resented by the great bulk of the people, who at the general re-election that soon afterwards followed, thought it neither prudent nor safe to return any of the former members who had been friends of the coalition. The odium of it attached to them in all parts of the country, and upwards of forty of Mr. Fox's immediate confederates lost their seats, or, as Sir Richard Hill terms it, became his *martyrs*.

After such an exposure of the base and total want of sincerity in their professions for the honor and interest of the people, it was not to be expected that they would ever be found to rear their heads again, much less that they would, with all the valor inherent in true virtue, stand forth so many champions in the public cause. Yet these are the very people that would now warp the general mind from the affection and esteem it bears towards the present administration.

When

When Mr. Pitt, at once the admiration and envy of Mr. Fox, added new lustre to the political hemisphere, and spread around a superior effulgence, he was, as Mr. Dundas truly said, earnestly desirous of connecting him with his party, he was anxious to take him under his protection and tuition, but as soon as ever he found the right honorable gentleman unwilling to submit to his trammels, and determined to think for himself, he resolved to set him down for the most selfish, corrupt, unconstitutional, and dangerous minister this country ever produced.

But in what part of Mr. Pitt's administration is this to be seen? Lord Thurlow, of whom Mr. Fox has on more occasions than one pronounced the warmest eulogiums, speaking of Mr. Pitt, ascribes to him notions of purity *scarcely to be paralleled in the purest times of Greece and Rome*, and highly extolls him *for having preferred the general good to his own particular interest*.

With respect to the charge of his being *corrupt*, it surely will not be attempted to be proved by his reduction of the pension list, his discontinuing one hundred and thirty sinecure places at the customs, his suppressing upwards of seven hundred officers of excise, and putting contracts, commissions,

commissions, loans, and lotteries under such regulations, as to avoid any improper influence by their means.

Nor can he be said to have neglected the public credit, having, besides other instances of his attention to it, procured a loan of five millions of money for its support, the timely and salutary distribution of which can well be attested by that vigilant magistrate, Sir James Sanderfon, Bart. whose accurate knowledge of mercantile affairs recommended him as chairman of the committee appointed by the House of Commons to manage the business. And as to his being unconstitutional, no one void of prejudice will surely think him deserving such an imputation, who even upon his coming into power had an opportunity of saving the constitution, by causing the defeat of Mr. Fox's India bill, and who is making it the pride and glory of his life by the present war to hand it down entire and unimpaired to future ages.

But if opposition, actually impressed with true notions of the public good, and really wishing to find cause for giving government their support, are too weak and timid to trust to their own opinions or observations, they surely might place some reliance on the thoughts of those they acted with. It is not merely from a review of his conduct

that

that the minister has to desire the people to draw their conclusions—it is not on his statement of past services, or professions of future exertions, that he need ask their approbation—he has much better vouchers—the honorable and numerous testimonies of the immediate friends of opposition, who have nobly and handsomely come forward not only to sanction, but to share in the responsibility of the present measures. They have thought proper to express in the most public and indelible characters their perfect satisfaction of the purity of the governing principles of the country, and however they may distrust their own judgments, opposition surely ought to pay some deference to the opinion of those, in whose integrity and talents they found so constant a theme of panegyric.

Or when is it that the minister is to be thought fit to be trusted; or is there to be no period, when the purity of his principles, and the wisdom of his conduct are to be allowed? If there is, what farther proof need be required? What stronger vouchers are there to bring forward? Has opposition now amongst them, men in whom there is a greater assemblage of property, integrity, and abilities, than is to be met with in the Duke of Portland, Lord Loughborough, the Marquis of Hertford, Earl Spencer, Earl of Mansfield, Earl of Carlisle, Mr. Windham, Sir

Gilbert Elliot, Sir Peter Burrell, Mr. Anstruther, and Serjeant Adair? And have they not every one of them joined administration? What more, then, would opposition require, or what more think necessary to fix the minister in the good opinion of the public?

The junction of the last respectable character may be considered as particularly honorable to ministry. When the friends of Mr. Fox associated for the purpose of subscribing one hundred thousand pounds as a free gift, in order to make him *independent*, it was natural to look out for some gentleman for the honor of chairman, in the opinion of whom opposition could unite in one general sentiment. On this occasion Mr. Serjeant Adair was selected as a person that opposition readily joined in pronouncing worthy of their confidence and esteem. His now coming forward, therefore, to certify his approbation of ministry, would surely make no light impression on opposition, were they open to reason or conviction, or inclined to suffer their opinion to be governed by any fixed principles of justice and equity.

Or what ministry do they think could be formed more able, more experienced, or more disinterested than the present? Is it in the gift of nature to have a first lord of the treasury

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treasury endowed with a greater variety or extent of talent, than Mr. Pitt is allowed to inherit? Or is it within the present narrow and contracted circle of opposition to name a lord chancellor, of more acknowledged legal abilities than Lord Loughborough—a lord president of the council, who is the statesman in a more eminent degree than the Earl of Mansfield—a lord privy seal, with more uncorruptible principles, or more sterling virtue, than the Earl of Chatham—a first lord of the admiralty, with more zeal and vigilance in the public service than Earl Spencer?—or where will they find men to execute the offices of secretaries of state, with better informed minds, sounder judgments, or more active abilities, than the Duke of Portland, Lord Grenville, and Mr. Dundas? Or when had we a secretary at war so well versed in tactics, and so able, as Mr. Windham?

It would, indeed, be matter of no little curiosity to learn from opposition, at what degree of the barometer of public approbation, an administration should arrive to be thought sufficient, in their opinion, to secure it from any censure or attack. Were opposition in power, and to hold the reins of government, with such large majorities as the present administration have in both Houses of Parliament in their favor, they surely would think it unreasonable

sonable and unjust to have it disputed that they possessed the public confidence. No ministry, ever since the formation of the British constitution, ever had the approbation of the Lords and Commons in so clear and decided a manner, or ever had the people of England so earnestly and so cordially with them, in a most vigorous and spirited support of their measures.

That this is the undoubted fact must surely appear from the most cursory review of the proceedings of Parliament, by which such liberal supplies have been granted for the services of the state, and the uncommon alacrity with which all ranks and descriptions of persons have come forward to assist in the internal defence of the kingdom.

On the subject of peace and war, the conduct of the livery of London on the death of Alderman Sawbridge, clearly proved the sense of the people when it can be fairly collected. A petition to the House of Commons had been obtained in favor of peace, at what was termed a common hall, said to be signed by a majority of the livery of London. At this juncture, Mr. Lushington offered his services as their representative in Parliament, on the ground of his giving the war his hearty support,
and

and was enabled with the boast of that declaration, joined to his deservedly high character, and independent principles, to carry his election with a majority of 774 votes on the third day's poll, against Alderman Coombe, who had been canvassing some time before Mr. Lushington started, on the contrary interest, with the loudest professions in favor of peace, but who was obliged to decline the contest before they had polled half the livery.

Such, no doubt, will be the result of most of the elections throughout Great Britain on the ensuing dissolution of Parliament. In all parts, where the question can be fairly put and tried, no doubt can be entertained of the event. It will only serve, perhaps, to furnish a new set of MARTYRS to Mr. Fox's principles, unless those who act with him should, before the period arrives, be prudent enough to publish a recantation of their political tenets.

The people of England are convinced, that the present opposition to government is founded in the most personal views, that the war is for the honor and interest of their country, and that in the ultimate success of it, they can alone hope to secure an honorable and permanent peace to themselves, and the re-establishment of the civil and religious rights of Europe, the attainment of which they

trust

trust will ensure the esteem of the age, and the blessings of posterity to the present minister, who the session before last declared in the House of Commons, as his opinion, “ that the restoration of peace could only be effected by “ our obtaining, first, a reasonable security against the “ return of war; and secondly, a reasonable indemnity. “ The house, however, would recollect, that negotiation “ was impracticable with a people who had made it a part “ of their constitutional laws that any man who treated “ with us would be guilty, and must suffer the penalty “ of a capital crime.

“ This was no loose description, no exaggerated picture, but a fact taken from their own records—from “ the mouths of the principal actors, as spoken in that “ horrid drama acted in the National Convention,

“ Still, however, if security, solid and substantial security, could be made out, neither the characters of “ persons, however infamous, nor their cruelties, however atrocious or repugnant to feeling, should, Mr. “ Pitt said, prevent him from accepting it.”

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ADVERTISEMENT.

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THE design of the author in the following Portraits has been to establish some criterion of public judgment, that might enable the people to ascertain the political value and personal integrity of the several leaders, and more distinguished members in both Houses of Parliament.

In his feeble efforts for this purpose, very unequal he must confess to the task, he lays no claim to any merit, but that of drawing his materials from sources of genuine information, and delineating his characters according to the public opinion, of which he presumes to hope he may be thought capable of forming some idea, from a close attendance for many years on the debates of the Lords and Commons.

The war in which we are engaged is of the most momentous nature. The event must either fix us in eternal disgrace and ruin, or secure our future glory, fame, and happiness. In either case, the following sketches will lead the public to decide with precision, and pronounce with authority, and nothing more will be requisite than

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In this the author has been actuated by the purest regard to truth and candor: and he trusts that he will not be thought to have any thing to answer for, if from a perusal of the following sketches, some little assistance will be derived in forming a true judgment of the political worth of the parties and individuals of the leading members.—

Or even if it should, on the minister's succeeding in his glorious exertions to save our constitution, our honor, and prosperity, from the daring attacks of the enemy, enable the people, with a mixture of gratitude and admiration, to know and hail the saviours and deliverers of their country.

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PARLIAMENTARY PORTRAITS,

OR

CHARACTERS

OF THE

BRITISH SENATE.

MR. PITT.

IT is not our intention to give the characters we have selected in the course of the following work, according to their birth or station, or the particular degree of merit they may be thought to possess. We, however, cannot but think this distinguished and illustrious statesman justly entitled to a clear and decided priority in the order of our portraits. This mark of distinction will no doubt be thought due to him, not only on account of his hereditary consequence, and pre-eminence in point of rank, but more especially, from the acknowledged extent and variety of his abilities. These, even in the midst of the greatest, and most brilliant assemblage of talents, ever known

VOL. I.

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in the world, and where, indeed, no mean or ordinary powers can stand the test, have long been the subject of peculiar admiration and applause.

Mr. Pitt is the second son of the late Earl of Chatham, who raised this country to the highest pinnacle of glory, and was born, as it were, to be a statesman, designed by nature to inherit all his father's greatness. He received his education at the University of Cambridge, and was afterwards entered a student of Lincoln's Inn, and admitted to the bar. Formed, however, to be the *Roscius* on the great stage of politics, he was chosen one of the members in parliament in the year 1780, for the borough of Appleby, which place he continued to represent till the year 1784, when he was returned for the University of Cambridge, for which he at present sits in the house.

On the 10th of July 1782, he was appointed chancellor of the exchequer, in the room of Lord John Cavendish, which situation he quitted on the resignation of the Marquis of Lansdown, then Earl Shelburne, first lord of the treasury, who was succeeded on the 5th of April 1783, by the Duke of Portland; his Grace, however, only continued in power till the 26th of December following, when Mr. Pitt came again into administration, and was placed at the head of his Majesty's councils.

The elevation of Mr. Pitt at the highest official situation of the country, was no less rapid, than honourable. The public, it is true, had not to learn his character. He had shewn himself possessed of all the *flamina* of a statesman,

statesman, but his sudden removal from the court of King's Bench, where his legal powers had scarcely begun to discover themselves, to the place of first minister of the British empire, was, perhaps, a transition perfectly unknown in the annals of history.

In reviewing the most celebrated speakers, we find many of them distinguished by some particular and appropriate excellence, but Mr. Pitt presently shewed himself competent to every subject, and equal to every undertaking. He soon proved, that he could easily descend to *minutiae*, or rise to magnitude, and that whatever the question might be, he could tower far above his competitors. By the most superlative genius he seemed to have acquired a knowledge so great and universal, that whether the matter in debate related to Europe, Asia, Africa, or America, he appeared equally well informed, and able to discuss it, no less to his own credit, than to the information and astonishment of the House.

Mr. Pitt had not been long in power before he had a very signal opportunity of evincing the disinterestedness of his conduct, by giving up the clerkship of the Pells, a circumstance that tended to raise him higher than ever in the estimation of the public, and to form a no inconsiderable theme of praise in both Houses of Parliament. Lord Thurlow, in particular, in a strain of panegyric the more valuable, as being sincere, took an opportunity of complimenting the minister on the occasion. He highly applauded him for giving up the clerkship of the Pells in the manner he had done; he said,

" he had been *shabby* enough to advise him to take it,
 " as it had so *fairly* fallen into his hands, and he believed
 " he should have been *shabby* enough to have done so
 " himself, as other great and exalted characters had so
 " recently set him the example, and he was so *shabby* as
 " to think, that there was no occasion for him to soar
 " above his noble predecessors in office, and to aspire at
 " higher acts of disinterestedness and spirit; but Mr.
 " Pitt, with notions of purity, not only very uncommon
 " in the present degenerate days, *but scarcely to be paral-*
 " *leled in the purest times of Greece and Rome*, had nobly
 " preferred the public, to the consideration of his own
 " particular interest."

Nor is the history of Mr. Pitt, brilliant and extraor-
 dinary as it is, more so, for the uncommon *eclat* with
 which he made his *entrè* into public life, or the rapid
 flight he took into the higher regions of political conse-
 quence, than the encomiums passed on him by the first,
 and most independent characters of the age. " His
 " Majesty, Mr. Dundas said, had singled him out as a
 " man of talents the most astonishing, of integrity the
 " most uncorrupt, of a reputation the most extraordinary.
 " He was the favourite of the House of Commons, and
 " in celebrating his name, *the people joined in one gene-*
 " *ral anthem of praise.*" The country gentlemen, in
 particular, who are always of the first weight and consi-
 deration, took every opportunity of expressing their satis-
 faction. Mr. Rolle, not only delivered his own private
 sentiments, but said, " he was empowered and com-
 " manded by his constituents to declare to the House,
 " that

“ that they highly concurred with him in his support of
 “ the minister, and that they reposed the most implicit
 “ confidence in his measures.” Mr. Drake pronounced
 Mr. Pitt a “ *magnanimous* minister,” and added, “ that
 “ from his appointment, the most happy prefaces of
 “ *glory* and *prosperity* to this country might naturally be
 “ drawn.” Mr. Martin, too independent to be biased
 in his opinion, and not very apt to praise, thought Mr.
 Pitt “ a *noble* minister,” and declared, “ that his con-
 “ duct had always been consistent, steady, and upright.”
 And in the Lords, the late Duke of Chandos, a nobleman
 more than forty years about the person of his Majesty,
 but who had never connected himself with any minister,
 and might on that account be supposed to have spoken
 impartially, said, “ he supported the present Premier
 “ wholly from principle;” and after passing a warm
 eulogium on him, parodying what Mr. Pitt’s father said
 of General Wolfe, pronounced the present Chancellor
 of the Exchequer “ *an heaven-born minister.*”

No former premier, perhaps, since the formation of
 the British constitution, ever had so general a report for
 integrity and talents, or afforded such flattering hopes to
 the nation; a circumstance, that will not be at all won-
 dered at, when it is considered, that in the first traces of his
 footsteps into parliamentary greatness, he was discovered
 trampling on Mr. Fox’s East India bill; “ a bill, Mr.
 “ Pitt said, so violent in its form, as to give reason for
 “ alarm to every thinking man, since it established a
 “ species of influence entirely unknown to the consti-
 “ tution of this country, and threatened to annihilate at

"once the independence of the house, the *equilibrium*
 "between the three estates of the realm, and to destroy
 "the beautiful frame of our government."

This bold and daring bill for establishing the *septemviri*, brought in by Mr. Fox, and seconded by the present Earl of Guilford, "for the purpose, as Mr. Dundas
 "observed, of putting the crown on his own head, and
 "grasping into his hands, for ever, a degree of influence
 "foreign to the constitution, and which would raise him
 "to an eminence of power superior even to that of the
 "sovereign himself," appeared so extremely dangerous, that the Marquis of Graham declared, "that should it
 "pass, there would be an end, for ever, to the inde-
 "pendence of parliament itself." Earl Temple said, "he was happy to seize the first opportunity of entering
 "his solemn protest against so *infamous* a bill." And the Lord Chancellor called it "a most atrocious violation
 "of private property, and a direct attack upon the con-
 "stitution;" and pronounced it "a subversion of the
 "first principles of the British government."

The destruction of this *hydra-headed* monster, calculated to draw every thing within the vortex of Mr. Fox's power, and which Mr. Wilberforce said, "would have
 "proved the *death-warrant* of the country;" was at once decisive, not only of Mr. Pitt's zeal and attachment to the true principles of the constitution, and the all-subduing powers of his vast and comprehensive mind, but a most pleasing earnest, indeed, of the future benefits that

that might be expected by a grateful and admiring public, to result from his abilities and exertions.

The administration of Mr. Pitt through a long series of years, exposed and fated, as it were, to a constant succession of objects equally new and difficult, has, in every point of view, been fully equal to the credit given him. The greatness and grandeur of his ideas; the force and energy of his eloquence; the activity and firmness of his zeal; the purity and rectitude of his conduct; the sincerity and anxiety of his regard for the true principles of the constitution; and the success and efficacy of his measures, are to be traced in the most shining and splendid track through almost every step of his parliamentary career.

His bill to reduce the fees of office, and also to abolish certain patent places; his bill for the better regulation and management of the East India Company, by which was established the board of India control, from the institution of which, the most inestimable blessings have resulted; his plan for the reduction of the national debt, so highly to the reputation of his financial arrangements; his propositions for regulating the commercial intercourse between Great Britain and Ireland, in which was involved so many great and interesting considerations; his famous commutation bill, so greatly for the improvement of the public revenue; his plan for effecting a reform in the representation of the people in Parliament, on fair, rational, and practicable grounds; his bill for counteracting the arbitrary seizure in France of all the private property in foreign countries, by which was effectually prevented a most

flagrant act of injustice, as well as a large source of supply to the enemy; his bill in 1793, for lending five millions of money, at two and a half per cent. under the controul of commissioners, to protect the merchants, and others, against the general shock of public credit, occasioned, not by a want of coin or wealth, but a sudden stoppage of discounting, or want of a circulating medium, by which the price of stocks were raised, and public credit restored to a higher pitch than ever; his timely and spirited measures for defeating a traiterous and detestable conspiracy, formed for subverting the existing laws and constitution, and for introducing the system of anarchy and confusion which has so fatally prevailed in France; his bill for the increase of the income of the Prince of Wales, and the discharge of his incumbrances; his bill for more effectually manning the royal navy; and a loan of two millions and a half to the West India planters, for the support of their credit, and many others of a less important nature, will stand long upon record, as memorable proofs of his wonderful talents, intrepidity, and activity, as well as of his just and well grounded pretensions to the character of a patriot and statesman.

They will for ever shew him to be a man, peculiarly gifted to grapple with arduous situations, and to possess a firm, and collected fortitude, that can enable him to look danger in the face, and to drive it at once from all its entrenchments.

The instances afforded of the amazing powers of his reasoning, and the resistless charms of his eloquence, are
equally

equally various and innumerable; but the most striking and splendid are furnished, perhaps, in his speeches on the preliminary articles of the peace, the subject of a parliamentary reform, the Westminster election, the French revolution, the defence of the war, the slave trade, and the regency business in the year 1788, a more important matter than which, had not engaged the attention of Parliament since the memorable revolution, that gave us a free constitution, and secured to us our rights and liberties.

His endeavours have always been strenuously and vigilantly employed in the prevention of smuggling, in the formation of foreign alliances, and in the better regulation of the internal police of the state, while his constant and timely precaution for the security of the kingdom, and his readiness and services, on all occasions, to keep in proper tone and vigor, all the various springs of commerce, have rendered him the favourite and the *idol* of the country gentlemen, and of every man at all interested in the support of the national credit and honor.

The public business was never better attended to, nor more accelerated than it has been during his administration. By his prudence, care, and exertions, according to the statement of Mr. Rose, in his place in the House of Commons, the last session, wholly uncontradicted, and undisputed by opposition, the pension list since the year 1783, has been reduced 48,000*l.* one hundred and thirty sinecure places at the customs, producing a saving every year to the amount of 10,680*l.* have been suppressed during that period, besides upwards of seven hundred officers

officers of excise. Contracts, commissions, loans, and lotteries, which were the great sources of wealth to individuals, have been put under such regulations, as to avoid the possibility of corruption by their means. Large sums have been recovered from public accountants, and loans, in particular, instead of being shared amongst the private friends of the minister, are now open to a fair competition, by which means near *half a million* is annually saved to the public. Exclusive of all these great and substantial benefits, 190,000*l.* is also saved on commissions, in consequence of the new regulations which have been introduced into the navy board.

According to the opinion of Mr. Fox, no minister can ever be fixed on a more solid, firm, and constitutional basis. "Have not a *majority* of the House of Commons," said he, almost from time immemorial, governed this country? Is it not a *confidence* in the House of Commons that gives energy and effect to every administration? Is it not the countenance and concurrence of the House of Commons which gives popularity and stability to the throne? Is it not owing to a clashing with this radical and primary principle, that so many calamities have happened, in some of the reigns prior to the revolution?"

No one can possibly dispute Mr. Fox's knowledge of the constitution; and it surely must be admitted, that no minister ever had so large, so honorable, so decided, and so independent a majority in the House of Commons, in the cordial and steady support of his measures, as
Mr.

Mr. Pitt has the honor to boast of, especially at this time, which may be said to form a no unimportant *epoch* of political difficulty and emergency.

With respect to a parliamentary reform, through which Mr. Fox and his friends have with so much industry endeavoured to expose Mr. Pitt to the censure and obloquy of the public, he has not only shewn himself a much better friend to it, than Mr. Fox, but is really to be considered so. "Mr. Fox always declared to me, said Mr. Burke, that he had never seen any plan of reform, of which he thought so well, as to propose it to the House. And it is not very candid in any man, who sees it in that point of view, to be goading *others* to undertake it." Nay, Mr. Burke even said, *that Mr. Pitt had done more on the subject than any other man in the House had done, or indeed ought to do.* He had twice moved it in parliament, and once got it recommended from the throne.

In drawing the portrait of Mr. Pitt, little more is to be expected than the prominent features of his administration, which includes a most interesting space of nearly eleven years. To enter into a minute investigation of all the great and miscellaneous benefits that have resulted from it, or to attempt to shew the variety and extent of his services, with all their collateral advantages, is too hard a task for us to undertake. All we have aimed at, is the general outlines of his political history, and a feeble sketch of his character, not doubting but that the deficiency on our part, great as it will be thought, will be amply supplied by the grateful recollection of the public.

Though

Though the minister has effected much by the war, through which he has, in fact, saved the *constitution*, much yet remains for his abilities and firmness to encounter. But of the success of the event, seconded, as he is, in his efforts by parliament, and the country at large, there is as little reason to doubt, as there is to repine at the experience we have already had in the various operations we have been obliged to carry on against the enemy. On this subject, so highly material to the public, nothing can be more consolatory than what fell from Mr. Pitt himself the last session, who said he was happy in stating "that not only this had not been a disgraceful war, but that the reputation of the country now stood higher than it ever did, for both in success and adversity its armies had shewn the most unexampled courage and fortitude; and that in every respect, as far as concerned our military operations, this would be found to be one of the most honourable and brilliant periods in the history of the British empire."

In support of this, it was stated by Mr. Rose, whose information and accuracy is to be depended on, that the price of the public funds had been less affected by the present than by any former wars, and that, on the commencement of the war in 1756, the three per cents. fell from one hundred to eighty.

Mr. Pitt concluded with a most elegant description of the relative duties of parliament, and the people. The parliament, whilst he explained to them the extent of their danger, would, he said, shew their fortitude and
firmness

firmness in resistance, and the people would support them with loyalty and confidence; and thus by their united efforts they would both be happily rescued from every danger. His hope, he said, was founded in a confidence in the resources of the country, in a confidence in the spirit and perseverance of its inhabitants.

In the various important discussions to which he is so frequently led by the extraordinary pressure of public affairs, as well as his high responsible situation, he never attempts by pompous declamation to give importance to trifles; his language is always suited to the occasion; although he speaks with great fluency and celerity, his words are so well chosen, that they bid defiance to the most critical severity. When an object of superior greatness engages his attention, his mind expands with the subject. It is on these great occasions that he convinces the most violent of his opponents, what the powers of eloquence, when directed by judgment, can perform; it is then that his elevated genius ranges far beyond the boundaries in which others are obliged to confine themselves, and which, if they attempted to pass, they would be unable either to retreat, or advance. His perception is so clear, and his understanding so sound, that variety cannot distract nor multiplicity confuse him.

No one possesses more of that manly reserve which uniformly marks and supports the dignity of substantial merit. Who has not been astonished and delighted at the pertinence and force of his apt and numerous quotations from the most difficult and illustrious authors, his

various references to their popular opinions, his profound acquaintance with the remote and intricate periods of their history, and his minute attention to every specific modification of their civil and political institutions?

As a parliamentary debater Mr. Pitt's character stands pre-eminently distinguished. There is a dignity in his deportment that always commands attention. His delivery is bold and nervous, his language elegant and precise, his manner firm and animated, and his knowledge always comprehensive and complete; while the admirable arrangement of his matter, the correctness of his ideas, and the perfect ease and readiness with which he meets the attacks of opposition, and the excellence of his replies, happily combine in constituting him the best speaker, and most finished orator in the House of Commons.

Besides the office of first lord of the treasury, and chancellor of the exchequer, Mr. Pitt is lord warden of the Cinque Ports, to which place he succeeded on the death of Earl Guilford, in 1790, a commissioner of the East India Board, master of the Trinity House, and high steward of the university of Cambridge.

We cannot leave this imperfect sketch without observing, that, at the same time that Mr. Pitt's abilities are so universally acknowledged and admired, he is equally esteemed for the purity of his principles, and the integrity of his mind. No minister, perhaps, ever stood so high in the confidence of the public; no minister, perhaps, ever so much deserved it; a mark of distinction,

the honor, pride, and glory of which is to be ascribed wholly to the conduct of Mr. Pitt, who, sensible that without a foundation of solid virtue and public spirit, the best and noblest accomplishments lose their importance, has been found to regulate himself accordingly throughout the whole of his administration.

“High situation and great influence, said Mr. Pitt, are desirable objects to all men, and objects which I am not ashamed to pursue, which I am even solicitous to possess, whenever they can be acquired with honor, and retained with dignity.”

“My earliest impressions” continued Mr. Pitt, in those beautiful strains so peculiar to himself, “were in favor of the noblest and most interested modes of serving the public; these impressions are still dear, and I hope will ever remain dear to my heart. I will cherish them as a legacy, infinitely more valuable than the greatest inheritance. On these principles alone I came into parliament, and into place.”

In short, in reviewing the political character of Mr. Pitt, it is impossible to contemplate the vast powers of his mind, and the variety and importance of his measures, without being lost awhile in wonder and surprize. Well may those who know him say with the Right Honorable gentleman who so ably presides as speaker of the House of Commons, that they do not consider it in the least requisite to place a watch on the emotions of private friendship, since the commendation it behoves them to bestow,

is

is due to the public conduct and extraordinary talents of the *minister*, and consequently distinct and separate from their partiality for the *man*.

But there is something yet infinitely beyond the reach of private encomium which Mr. Pitt has to boast of, and compared to which, all the honest zeal, and warmth of individual approbation becomes poor and insipid. The least effulgence or slightest rays of superior talents; may presently set in a blaze the spark kept warm within the grateful breast, but there is no imposing on the House of Commons even by the brightest glare of genius.

There, *sheer* merit only can prevail. And after a parliamentary *ordeal* of more than twelve years, a minister may surely be thought *sterling*, and, as Mr. Powys has justly observed, “to possess those shining abilities that would adorn any station, and to carry with him whenever he may chuse to retire, what is much more valuable than riches—the *applause*, the *esteem*, and the *admiration* of his country.”

EARL

land, upon the Marquis of Buckingham's quitting the government of that kingdom.

Westmore considers but for a moment the relative situation of the Earl of Westmorland.

THE present Earl of Westmorland, whose ancestors have enjoyed the title since the year 1624, is the tenth earl, and was born the 1st of January, 1759; his lordship succeeded to that honor on the death of his father, in 1774; and married, the 20th of May, 1782, Miss Child, only daughter of Robert Child, Esq. the banker, who died in Ireland.

His lordship seemed at a very early period to have turned his attention to the study of politics; his knowledge of which much distinguished him on his *entrè* into public life, and acquired him no common reputation in his defence of ministry, whose measures he supported on many great and important occasions, in the House of Lords, with a degree of ability and eloquence, that soon raised his character to a height, equal to the most sanguine expectations of his friends.

The talents of the noble lord could not fail calling him forth into the most active services of his country; accordingly, in the year 1787, he was appointed joint postmaster general with Lord Walsingham; and in the year 1789, a much more honourable and dignified office was conferred upon him, being made lord lieutenant of Ire-

land, upon the Marquis of Buckingham's quitting the government of that kingdom.

Whoever considers but for a moment the relative situation of that country to Great Britain, and how much depends on a mutual intercourse of friendship between them, will readily see the necessity of exercising every mark of prudence and wisdom in the choice of a vice-roy. The independency, temper, and penetration of the Earl of Westmorland, peculiarly recommended him to this important task, nor was it long before his lordship fully justified the high opinion entertained of him: though assuming the reins of government at a very arduous and critical period, the salutary measures pursued by him tended to conciliate the affections of the people, to fix on a firm and solid basis their dearest interests, and to secure the blessings of peace and harmony.

Without meaning, in the least, to detract from the merits of others, no one, perhaps, ever went through the vice-royship with a greater degree of reputation; though objects of the first concern and tendency pressed upon his lordship, the utmost tranquillity was happily procured, and owing to his address, he had the satisfaction of leaving the sister kingdom, on his quitting the lord lieutenancy, perfectly contented, and loud in its approbation of the conduct of administration, and in the highest state of prosperity.

Though other nations endured much from a scarcity of provisions, which prevailed almost universally, Ireland,

land, through the medium of the lord lieutenant and his counsellors, suffered little or nothing from it; when commercial credit was shaken to its base, that country scarcely felt the shock, owing to the timely and effectual measures adopted by Lord Westmorland, after the plan of the British minister, to assist and support it; when the public peace was threatened by a body of men, who assumed the name of volunteers, his lordship by his spirit and firmness dispersed the horde, and happily preserved the peace of the country; when the jacobine mock representatives of the people assembled, and made attempts to spread fear and apprehension throughout the country, he awed sedition into silence by his ready and constitutional exertions, and restored, by a conversion act, the confidence and tranquillity of the country;—his lordship also secured the independence of the Irish House of Commons by a place and pension bill; alleviated the sufferings of the poor by a reduction of the hearth-money tax; secured the general peace and safety by the establishment of a national militia; rendered the navigation act both intelligible and serviceable to the merchant and citizen; and made the restrictive laws against the Catholics flow from the throne itself, in the benign dictates of his august sovereign.

His popularity in Ireland was followed on his return to England with the approbation of his sovereign, as a proof of which, his lordship has since been honoured with the appointment of master of the horse to the King; his lordship is also a knight of the garter, and grand master of the illustrious order of Saint Patrick.

His political conduct has always been characterized by the most steady, active, and uniform support of the constitution, and the present ministry. When persons of noble birth, independent principles, and powerful talents, with a strict regard to the moral duties of private life, stand forth in the defence of administration, their enemies must surely be compelled to receive this attachment, as the most honourable testimony of the rectitude of their measures.

As a public speaker his lordship has much to recommend him. To all the advantages of a handsome and graceful person, he unites a fluency of speech, the most elegant diction, and an unembarrassed manner; a clear perception of the question, and a close reasoning upon the true principles of it, never fail to distinguish him: his arguments are always founded in facts, and supported on the basis of reason, while a delicacy pervades the whole, that only serves to enhance his merit, and to raise him in the estimation of the House, where his lordship is always heard with the most respectful attention.

LORD

other great national objects, in the discussion of which, the most shining talents, and all the powers of the most comprehensive mind, were necessarily called forth.

LORD LOUGHBOROUGH.

THIS distinguished luminary of the law made his *entrée* on the great stage of politics at an early period of his life, and was a very active supporter of the late Mr. George Grenville in the House of Commons; to which he was first elected in 1768, for Richmond in Yorkshire.

His talents, however, which have since blazed forth with such uncommon splendor, were not fully displayed, at least, not to excite any extraordinary degree of public admiration, till about the year 1768, when he stood forth a warm and strenuous advocate for Mr. Wilkes in the affair of the Middlesex election.

He was appointed solicitor-general in 1771, and attorney-general in 1778; and in the year 1780 he was made lord chief justice of the Common Pleas, and created a peer of Great Britain.

Few characters have more eminently distinguished themselves in parliament. During the American war, no one contributed more to the support of the minister, whose measures, equally important and various, he supported with no less ability than zeal. Through his exertions, it was, that Lord North was enabled to carry his bill for new-modelling the East India company, and many

other great national objects, in the discussion of which, the most shining talents, and all the powers of the most comprehensive mind, were necessarily called forth.

His speeches in the Lower House on the motion against Lord Clive, on the Quebec prohibitory, and capture bills, and on the propriety of sending his Majesty's electoral troops to garrison Minorca and Gibraltar; and in the Lords' on a variety of questions, including his speeches on Mr. Fox's East India bill, the regency business, and Mr. Hastings's case, are sufficient proofs of his abilities as a debater, the extent of his reasoning as a logician, his merit as an advocate, and his extensive knowledge as a senator.

On Lord Thurlow's resigning the seals, on the 26th of January, 1793, his lordship was appointed to the office of lord chancellor of Great Britain, which high and important station he has filled with a degree of reputation, that has left it nothing to fear from a comparison with any of his predecessors, however much they may have been estimated in the opinion of the world.

As a speaker his lordship is correct and methodical. His matter is always well selected and judiciously arranged. It has all the air of logical justness, and argumentative precision. He never wanders from his subject, from a want, or redundancy of words. His oratory is uncommonly chaste; his pronunciation remarkably distinct; his emphasis admirably well placed; and his voice most excellently managed. In a word, his eloquence, at once subtle

subtle and keen, like a *scythe*, cuts down every thing before him, and leaves his opponents in debate, quite barren and exposed.

His lordship frequently goes much into detail, and conveys it to his audience with wonderful skill and address. His language is always nervous, technical, and pointed. His speeches, on the first blush of them, bear the appearance of uncommon industry and amazing art; he nevertheless delivers himself with great fluency, always avoiding the extremes of a rapid utterance, hesitation, or absence of mind; and every thing he offers, is found to flow entirely from a knowledge of the subject, to be well-digested, and to lead directly to the conviction of those who hear him.

In short, we know of no one in parliament better formed by nature, education, and habit, to lead men of the best understanding at his will and pleasure.

The support of such a character cannot but speak very forcibly in favour of any administration, and at this time, in particular, must contribute in no small degree to the exercise of public confidence.

subtle and keen like a *Viper* cuts down every thing before him, and leaves his opponents in debate, quite barren and exposed.

MR. COURTENAY.
THIS gentleman is one of the representatives for Tamworth in Staffordshire, for which he was elected in 1780, and in 1783 was surveyor to the board of ordnance.

During the time he held this place, which was about twelve months, no one more distinguished himself in the support of government. The whole *artillery* of the board of ordnance was continually drawn out against opposition, and Mr. Courtenay was never so happy as when he was employed in directing its fire.

Since he has been *out of office*, nothing administration have done has ever been right in his opinion. Whatever they do, it is sure to be the subject of his invective. He seldom or ever leads on to the attack, but generally contents himself with lying in *ambuscade*, and firing off his grape shot at ministers. It is now more than twelve years that he has been on this service, and though he has acted with little *effect*, no one has manifested more *zeal*, or shewn a greater degree of *industry* and *perseverance*.

We certainly cannot be supposed as intending to impute to this gentleman any *sinister* views. He has so frequently and so pointedly insisted upon his *disinterestedness*,
 that

that it would be the height of illiberality to doubt it, and yet in the review of his parliamentary conduct, it is hardly possible to forget the reply he made when in office to a certain baronet, Sir Joseph Mawbey, and which for the truth as well as the wit it contains, most undoubtedly deserves to be remembered, not that we think it can by any means be *retorted* on him in his present situation.

"This is a happy constitution (says Mr. Courtenay) where a man may speak what he pleases, nay, if he pleases, without knowing what he is saying, or caring whether any one pays the least attention to what he says. Such a man may talk of *Augean* stables, but happy it is that the honourable baronet's expressions are perfectly harmless in their effect. It might be otherwise, indeed, if he had been acquainted with the manner in which Alexander the VIth. and his son used to wake a deadly poison, which came from the mouth of a pig. Voltaire in his Universal History, speaking of this poison, relates that Alexander and his son used to tie up a pig by the hind legs, and beat him till he frothed at the mouth. Some of this froth administered in a cup of wine to a man, was an infallible passport to eternity. What a happiness it is to this House (continued the honourable gentleman) *that there is no such frothy orator in it.*"

Mr. Courtenay's kind of eloquence is well known. Whatever the subject may be, his speeches are always made up of second hand *stories*, *jest*s, and *puns*, taken from the works of the late Mr. Joseph Miller, of facetious memory, and other authors of equal celebrity; all which

he applies with great adroitness, wit, and humour. Hence he frequently turns the most serious matters into laughter, and is certainly the most *pleasant* man in opposition.

To cite all the various instances that might be quoted in illustration of this, would greatly exceed the limits of our design, as there has scarcely been any one subject, at least of a *serious* nature, these twelve years past, on which he has not exercised that *wit* and *satire*, which he most probably will be found to continue; since, as the honourable gentleman himself justly observes,

“ Like the vile straw that’s blown about the street,

“ Some needy members stick to all they meet,

“ Coach’d, carted, trod upon, now loose, now fast,

“ And carried off on some dog’s tail at last.”

EARL OF MORNINGTON.

HIS lordship, who succeeded to the title of Earl of Mornington, of the kingdom of Ireland, on the death of his father in 1784, was returned one of the members for Saltash in 1786, which his lordship vacated in 1788, and in the year 1790 was chosen for Windsor, which place he at present represents.

He has always been uniformly and decidedly on the side of government, and no one, perhaps, has ever supported the measures of it with more firmness and ability. His lordship is a knight of the most illustrious order of Saint Patrick, a lord of the treasury, to which he was appointed in the year 1786, and one of the board of India controul.

As a speaker his lordship stands very high on the parliamentary scale of merit. His political knowledge is equal to any subject, and is frequently displayed, no less to his own credit, than the information of the House. His lordship seldom or ever speaks on trifling matters, and seems much less desirous of rising often, than of distinguishing himself, whenever he takes a part in the debate. Hence his lordship deals much in detail, and goes at large into the question, which, however abstruse, or profound, he treats with a facility of reasoning, and a strength of argument, that never fails to excite the admiration of his hearers.

hearers. His lordship not only meets it in a manly, fair, and able manner, but also closely views its relative points and different bearings, all which he embraces and arranges with great classical skill, and discusses in a flow of words, no less elegant and nervous, than his deductions are just and conclusive.

The affairs of the French republic seem to have formed a very considerable share of his lordship's study and attention, and it has repeatedly been noticed in the most handsome terms by both sides of the House.

In the motion for the address on his Majesty's speech in 1794, his lordship, after expatiating, at great length, on the history of the revolution of France, and its present situation, concluded a most admirable speech, in which his eloquence had been displayed with wonderful effect, in the following most beautiful, expressive, and prophetic terms,

“ You are now to make your option. You are now to
 “ decide, whether it best becomes the wisdom, spirit,
 “ and dignity of a great nation, to rely for her existence
 “ on the arbitrary will of a restless and implacable enemy,
 “ or on her own sword. You are now to decide, whether
 “ you will trust to the skill and valor of British hearts and
 “ British armies, and to the united strength of your pow-
 “ erful allies, the defence of the limited monarchy of these
 “ realms, the constitution of parliament, all the established
 “ ranks and orders of society amongst us, the sacred rights
 “ of property, and the whole frame of our laws, our li-
 berties,

“berties, and our religion, or whether you will deliver
 “over the guardianship of all those blessings to the justice
 “of Cambon, the plunderer of the Netherlands, who, to
 “sustain the baseless fabric of his depreciated assignats,
 “defrauds whole nations of their rights of property, and
 “mortgages the aggregate wealth of Europe; to the mode-
 “ration of Danton, who first promulgated that unknown
 “law of nature, which ordains that the Alps, the Pyrenees,
 “the Ocean, and the Rhine, should be the only boundaries
 “of the French dominion; to the reign of Robespierre,
 “whose practice and piety in the murder of his own so-
 “vereign, who exhorts all mankind to embrace the same
 “faith, and assassinate their Kings for the honor of God;
 “to the friendship of Barrere, who avows in the face of
 “all Europe, that the fundamental articles of the revolu-
 “tionary government of France is the ruin and annihila-
 “tion of the British empire; or finally, to whatever may
 “be the accidental caprice of any new band of malefac-
 “tors, who, in the last convulsions of their distracted
 “country, may be destined to drag their present tyrants
 “to their own scaffolds, to seize their lawless power,
 “to emulate the depravity of their example, and to rival
 “the enormity of their crimes.”

Even the praise of Mr. Fox was extorted, and it was
 said by Mr. Windham, that his lordship had recapitulated
 the conduct of France in a manner so fully and ably, so
 masterly, so true, and alarming, as not only seriously to
 fix the attention of the House, but also to rouse the whole
 nation, and enable every one to see it in a proper point of
 view.

Mr.

“over the guardianship of all those blessings to the justice
“of England, the plunderer of the Netherlands, who re-
“fuses the sacred rights of his dependent subjects,
“and whose whole policy is of property, and
“mortgages the aggregate wealth of Europe to the mode-
“ration of Britain, who first promulgated that un-
“lucky, which would be the only remedy.”

THIS gentleman was first elected for Hindon in 1773, and afterwards for New Sarum in 1778, which he at present represents, and is one of that great and respectable body of interest, called *the country gentlemen*, who always must have a very considerable weight in the House of Commons.

No one, perhaps, has a higher character for the independence of his conduct, and the purity of his intentions. He has never been in *place*, and most probably never will have a situation under *any* administration. His political tenets allow of no other motive whatever than the true *amor patriæ* in the service of the public.

He has always been uniform in his opposition to ministry, and may be considered as the immediate successor of the late Lord Newhaven---

Who bor'd the House with his arithmetic,
And made it clear as any *candlestick*;
For *light* he'd none, not e'en a single gleam,
Tho' like a *comet* to himself he'd seem.

Though from a disagreeable hesitation in his mode of delivery, there are many better speakers, there certainly
cannot

cannot be a more active or industrious one. His great *forte* lies in attacking the financial arrangements of administration. Since he has had a seat, we do not remember a single estimate, loan, contract, treaty, lottery, or statement of any kind whatever, that he has not represented as erroneous or fallacious.

That this must proceed entirely from the real goodness of his heart, and his over anxiousness to guard the public purse, is very evident, since he cannot possibly think it at all entertaining to be eternally on subjects which even the wit of Sheridan can hardly render palatable; or imagine that it can ever be wished on account of the public, since we do not believe the treasury has ever profited one single farthing by all the discoveries he ever made, or that his calculations, or corrections, have, in any one instance, ever been admitted, or seriously attended to.

The House, indeed, are never much disposed to listen to the *amendments* of opposition, and it has so often been disappointed in its expectations of being set *right* by this gentleman, that whenever he rises, it is now only considered as for the purpose of giving Mr. Rose the trouble to explain, which is always esteemed satisfactory and conclusive.

Yet no one can doubt the *zeal* that actuates him. All we have to lament is, that it should prove such an endless source of uneasiness to himself, and occasion such frequent appeals to the patience of those that are obliged to hear him.

WILLIAM

WILLIAM DEVAYNES, Esq.

FEW persons have ever had a seat in the British senate who have combined in their character so many excellent qualities as this gentleman, who has represented the town of Barnstable ever since the year 1774.

In whatever point of view we consider his history, it may be decorated with all the variegated flowers of panegyric, without fearing the blight of adulation.

Mr. Devaynes was many years ago one of his Majesty's governors in Africa, where he presided a considerable time, equally to the satisfaction of his sovereign and his own reputation, having acted with the most general approbation in his government, and returned with a character, equally distinguished for his abilities and the services he had rendered his King and country.

From this period he has continued at home in the most active pursuit of the public good, whether we consider him as a member of the House of Commons, or as one of the directors of the East India Company, which great and opulent body he has repeatedly had the honor of serving as their chairman, in which respectable situation, he has not a little signalized himself in the most important and interesting state of their affairs, by the happiest exercise of his knowledge and talents.

But

But there is another light in which we have to view this gentleman, that reflects the highest lustre on his name. While others are turning their leisure from the busy scenes, in which they are engaged, to the gratification of their own private pleasures, it is his pride to seek an opportunity, even amidst the multiplicity of affairs in which he is concerned, of serving the distressed, and of presenting in his own person, the truest picture of a *philanthropist*.

Hence, for many years past, we have perceived him at the head of every public contribution, the friend of the soldier, the sailor, the manufacturer, and mechanic, the grand source of public benevolence, himself on all occasions, the generous donor, and citizen of the world.

In politics he has always been on the side of government, and in the support of the present minister. Steadily attached to the true principles of the constitution, he has exerted himself equally in the British senate, and the East India house, in enabling his sovereign to maintain its real honour and dignity.

Few characters command more respect, and as a speaker, for which he is gifted with a graceful person, no one is more conciliating in his manner.

LORD GRENVILLE.

FEW noblemen, perhaps, possess more consequence, in point of family connections, and personal influence, than his lordship, who is first cousin to the minister, and brother to the Marquis of Buckingham.

His lordship's father, the late George Grenville, who died in the year 1770, was first lord of the treasury, to which high office he was appointed in 1763.

Lord Grenville was secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, on his noble relation, the Marquis of Buckingham's succeeding to that honor in the year 1782, and was many years a member for Buckinghamshire in the English House of Commons, where he particularly distinguished himself by the most frequent, happy, and extensive exercise of his zeal and ability in the support of administration.

On the death of Mr. Cornwall, which happened the 1st of January, 1789, he was chosen speaker of the House of Commons, having, on his being proposed for that high and important station, with Sir Gilbert Elliot, Bart. a majority of 71 votes, there being 215 in his favor, and 144 against him.

A mi-

A minister of the crown, however, being judged necessary for the purpose of taking an active part in the Upper House, his lordship's talents and application pointed him out as a proper person on the occasion. He was accordingly made secretary of State for the home department, the 5th of June, 1789, and created a peer of Great Britain the 17th of November, 1790.

His lordship is also one of the commissioners of the Board of India controul, a lord of trade and plantation, and on the death of the Duke of Newcastle, was appointed auditor of the exchequer.

His lordship may fairly be considered as one of the most useful and intelligent ministers that ever sat in the House of Lords; and never fails to stand forward with a laudable spirit and confidence in the defence of administration. He possesses great political knowledge. With a mind naturally formed for business, he has made the history of his own country, and the relative situation of foreign states, the great objects of his study, and thereby acquired a fund of information, which frequently enables him to make a very conspicuous figure in the more important debates of parliament.

He never shrinks from the question before the House, but viewing it, in every possible shape, meets it with a fairness highly creditable to administration. He not only repels the attacks of opposition, but fully justifies the measures of government, and closely argues every point of the debate, in a manner that never fails to *silence*,
D 2 though

though it may not *convince* the members of opposition. His speeches generally consist of a detail of facts, from which he boldly draws his conclusions, and a manly support of the conduct of ministry under existing circumstances, in which, if not *unanswerable*, he is never *refuted*, however he may be *attacked*.

As a speaker no one preserves more dignity. His voice is clear and distinct; his language apt and pointed, and his periods well rounded. He generally delivers himself at considerable length, but the importance of his matter, and the happy arrangement of it, never fail to ensure him the most profound attention.

WILLIAM

MR. LAMBTON.

THIS gentleman is a native of Durham, the son of the late General Lambton, and descended from one of the most ancient families in the kingdom.

At an early time of life he was sent to the university of Cambridge, from whence, after completing his education, he made an excursion to the continent, and resided some time at Paris, where he lived in such a style of hospitality and magnificence, as to reflect the highest honour on the character of an English gentleman.

On his return home he married the daughter of the Earl of Jersey. Besides his near relationship to the noble earl, Mr. Lambton is also first cousin to Lord Strathmore, General Lambton having married Lady Mary Lyon, sister to Lord Strathmore's father.

Mr. Lambton succeeded as one of the representatives in parliament for the city of Durham, without any opposition; on General Lambton's vacating his seat, and was first elected for it in the year 1787; he was a second time returned for the city in 1790, and is at present one of its members.

As a speaker he is considerably above mediocrity. He always appears to have well studied the question, on which he generally delivers himself at great length. His language is extremely elegant, and has great variety, as well as force and effect; and in the whole of his conduct as a debater, the *scholar* and the *gentleman* are equally conspicuous.

He is one of the most strenuous advocates for a parliamentary reform, and is amongst the earliest members of the society, calling themselves, *the Friends of the People*, formed for the avowed purpose of obtaining that measure, in the support of which, he has always taken a very active part, on its being brought forward in the House of Commons.

Enlisted under the banners of Mr. Fox, he has always been with opposition, except in the increase of the Prince of Wales establishment, on which occasion, with a liberality equal to his good sense, he disdained being prevented by any partial attachment to party, from voting for what the minister thought necessary for the dignity of the heir apparent, and the discharge of his debts.

In private life, Mr. Lambton bears a most amiable character, and possesses a fortune, which must with his talents always render him, not only respected, but of no inconsiderable consequence.

It was the consideration of this, that occasioned some very pertinent, and well-pointed observations from Sir
John

John Scott, which we beg leave to give in the learned gentleman's own words, that we may not take from the justice he meant to do Mr. Lambton's merit, nor weaken the force of his animadversions on the pernicious examples furnished by his conduct.

" I have known that gentleman from his infancy,
 " I know the virtues of his heart, I know the powers
 " of his mind, I know the great extent of his property,
 " and it is that knowledge of him, that gives me
 " cause of regret. Whenever I see a person of his
 " weight and consequence in the country, possessing
 " the sentiments he does, and supporting them with so
 " much vehemence, it gives me great concern ; because,
 " when it is said, that an attempt at reform might pro-
 " duce confusion, and the destruction of property, it is
 " asked, *if such a one of great character and fortune*, naming
 " one at the same time, *is not an advocate for reform*,
 " and if it can be supposed, that *such* a man would sup-
 " port a measure, that has a tendency to destroy all pro-
 " perty, and consequently to ruin him ? Thus it is, that
 " gentlemen, who really are anxious for the good of their
 " country, are cited as examples to induce uninformed
 " men to enter into all the wild and dangerous schemes
 " of a set of *pretended* reformers."

SIR RICHARD HILL, BART.

THIS gentleman, who has been a representative in parliament for Salop ever since the year 1780, is one of the most respectable members of that great body of interest in the House of Commons, which must always have its weight and influence under the description of *country gentlemen*.

According to the honorable baronet's own declaration the last session, he has, for a long course of years, shewn a uniform and steady attachment to the present administration, and particularly, to the truly worthy and distinguished character at the helm of public affairs. "I have always esteemed it, said Sir Richard, my honour and happiness, to give him my support and my confidence."

Though he last year joined the few in their wishes that means were taken for the purpose of making peace, he was very far from throwing any imputation on the conduct of the minister respecting the war. "On the contrary, I believe, said he, that the minister kept off war as long as in prudence he thought he possibly could, and till he really apprehended both justice and necessity compelled him to enter into it."

As a speaker, to use his own expression, *multum in parvo* is the maxim he wishes to follow. Indeed, he seldom or ever tires the House with his speeches, which generally consist of well selected stories, happily introduced, and applied with great point and effect; the farcastic turn of them is frequently extremely severe, but they are at the same time so truly apposite to the purpose, and told with so much pleasantry and good humour, that the party they are applied to, are themselves restrained from shewing any anger or resentment, and submit patiently to the laugh of the House.

The conduct of opposition has often furnished him with matter of ridicule and reproach; and no one, perhaps, has been more happy in exposing the famous *coalition* between Lord North and Mr. Fox, which he has done on many occasions, but never with more wit and humour, than in the following instance, in which the *motive* and *tendency* of that monstrous junction will be found depicted in a most admirable and masterly manner.

“ There were two neighbouring farmers, said Sir Richard, who, for many years, had borne the most cordial enmity to each other; so great was their antipathy, that each declared, they durst not trust themselves in a room with each other. At last, however, *Farmer Whig-house* says to *Farmer Toryman*, “ Farmer, what are you and I about? We are neither of us likely to thrive in the world by all this jangling and snarling: I have a proposal to make to you, by which we may both of us get money apace, and provide for our numerous,
“ and

“ and clamorous families and friends. We have both of
“ us a great deal of dirty work to do, and if you will lend
“ me your horses to drive me through the mire, I will
“ lend you mine, and so let us e’en join our teams
“ together.”—“ Why, *Neighbour Whighouse*, I like your
“ proposal very well, says *Farmer Toryman*, but I fear
“ our horses won’t drive well together; I am apt to fear
“ they will find the chains rather galling, and that they
“ will kick and wince, and start, and run restive.”

“ Never fear that, *Mr. Toryman*, says *Mr. Whighouse*,
“ we must pat them, and coax them, and feed them with
“ good hay and corn, and give some of them *fine*
“ *trappings*, and then never fear, but we will make them
“ so tractable, that we may ride them ourselves with
“ ease, though, to be sure, we are neither of us very
“ *light weight*.”

“ Now all former animosities were to be entirely forgot-
“ ten, and upon every occasion, they called one another,
“ my *good friend Mr. Whighouse*, and my *worthy neigh-*
“ *bour Mr. Toryman*.”

“ This, to be sure, made the neighbours laugh. But
matters soon took a serious turn, for these two overgrown
farmers began to encroach upon their neighbours, to
break down their fences, and were proceeding to seize
their very deeds and leases, when a worthy *gentleman* in
the neighbourhood, finding how matters were going on,
went and informed the *landlord* of their proceedings,
who

who dismissed them from their farms, in order to make room for better tenants."

Amongst many other pleasantries on this subject, no one was ever more highly relished, than Sir Richard's declaring, that if the *loving* pair, meaning Lord North and Mr. Fox, agreed for *twelve months* and a day, they should have his hearty vote for the *fitch* of *bacon*.

Though Sir Richard deals pretty much in these kind of witticisms, and also in allusions to the gospel, which he always gives with a peculiar degree of neatness and skill, no one can be more serious at times, or more desirous of shewing the soundness of his understanding, and the goodness of his heart, and few men possess a larger share of either, in endeavouring to promote the good of the state.

He has often taken a very active part in the most useful measures, and in 1785 strongly recommended a tax on public places, and thought, that as 500,000*l.* was paid every year to them, 100,000*l.* of it could very well be spared to the public.

EARL

EARL OF CHATHAM.

HIS lordship, who was born the 10th of September, 1756, and married the 9th of July, 1793, to Mary Elizabeth, daughter of the present Viscount Sidney, is the son of the late Earl of Chatham, who was created a peer of Great Britain July 30, 1786, and died May 11, 1778, after having been carried home from the House of Lords, where he had fainted away, in consequence of the violent exertions he had made in a remarkable speech on the American war.

He was buried in Westminster Abbey at the public expence, and 4000*l.* per annum was granted in perpetuity to his heirs by parliament, and annexed to the title, which is of course enjoyed by the present earl.

His lordship bears the rank of colonel in the army, is a knight of the most noble order of the garter, and the 4th of September, 1788, was appointed first lord of the admiralty, in which high and important office he continued till the 3d of March, 1795, when he was succeeded by Earl Spencer.

The abilities and services of the noble earl have on several occasions received the highest panegyric in the House of Commons, and in particular from Admiral Gardener,

Gardener, who, after speaking very fully of his talents and diligence, observed, "that his lordship had made it his study to do his duty, and from an acquaintance with him for five years, he would take upon him to say, that no man was ever better acquainted with what related to his office."

Nor will this encomium be thought too much, when his lordship's naval administration is impartially considered and fairly stated. He began the war with only 16,000 men, and in 1793 we had 85,000. In 1794 we had on board our ships of war no less than 95,000 men. Such were the exertions made in the course of a very few years, and such their great and happy effects!

In the prosecution of former wars, it has been customary to ransack almost every merchant ship for all its failors, and to proceed on such a scale, as for a time, almost entirely to destroy our trade. But during the period Lord Chatham was in office, notwithstanding the astonishing energy of the measures taken to increase the naval force, our commerce remained almost entire.

It is also to be observed, that a great and powerful stimulus to entering into the naval service, and which operated in other wars, never did exist in this, namely the love of prize money. In former wars the enterprising failor had often been supported by the hope of returning to his wife and mistress with a load of wealth, and under that idea, the wife, or mistress, had often contributed to his adventure.

In 1794 one hundred and eight convoys were applied for to the Admiralty Board and granted, and one hundred and forty ships were employed on that service, besides fifteen ships and vessels in the coasting trade exclusively.

At the commencement of the war, we had only thirteen ships of the line, and thirty frigates fit for service, but in 1794 we had about eighty ships of the line, and one hundred frigates in actual employ, which, with armed vessels, made upwards of three hundred sail used against the enemy, and in protecting our trade.

Nor is the rapidity and ability with which the navy has been increased the only thing to be mentioned to the credit of his lordship. During the time he presided at the admiralty board, we took, or destroyed twenty ships of the line, twenty frigates of upwards of thirty-two guns, eight frigates of less force, and twenty-eight other vessels of war; while, on the contrary, the French have only taken or destroyed of our ships, one of the line, two frigates of thirty-two guns, one smaller frigate, and sixteen other ships of war. Whenever an opportunity has offered, our navy has triumphed, and they could do no more.

His lordship has never been in the habit of speaking. Indeed, we do not remember him ever to have been attacked in the House of Lords, at least in any way to give his lordship occasion to rise.

Mr.

MR. POWYS.

NO one stands more highly distinguished than this gentleman for his independence, which his great and extensive property enables him to maintain pure and entire.

He has been one of the representatives in parliament for the county of Northampton ever since the year 1774, and has, on several occasions, taken an opportunity of expressing his high opinion of and confidence in the present minister.

Mr. Powys, amongst many other declarations of his purity, once was heard to observe, "that he left *ambiguity* " for men who had sinister purposes. For his part, his " heart was in his words." That he possesses the most harmless disposition, and acts from the worthiest motives, no one can possibly entertain a doubt, but his history certainly proves, that the best of men may want *consistency* of conduct.

After Mr. Pitt had snatched the rudder from the hands of Mr. Fox, and had piloted the state vessel into harbour, one of the most active at the meetings held at the St. Alban's tavern, for the purpose of inducing the former to join the latter, was Mr. Powys, who had but a little time before declared in the House "that he sincerely believed,

" and

"and would be free to say it, *that Mr. Fox did not care by what means he gratified his ambition.*"

That Mr. Powys, and those who joined him in his endeavours to coalesce all parties, did not succeed, is well known, and such was his concern, that he was actually seen, on the 24th of January, 1784, to cry in his place at the disappointment of his wishes.

This *trick* of opposition originated with Lord North, whose *tears* for the loss of a beloved child, was, perhaps, one of the most amiable *traits* in the whole of his life. Mr. Erskine *cried* three times on the question, whether the impeachment against Mr. Hastings died with the parliament, or not? and Mr. Sheridan, who may be supposed a tolerable good judge of *stage effect*, even went a great way farther; he actually *fainted*, speaking on the state trial in Westminster Hall, and to outdo every one that went before him, he was carried out, and *would not suffer himself to be recovered all that day.*

Even Charles Fox *cried*, for what he termed the defection of Mr. Burke, and it is hard to tell how much it would have got into fashion, had not the party themselves been put out of conceit of it, by a *tear* being seen one day stealing down the cheek of Michael Angelo Taylor.

Mr. Powys as a speaker is much attended to, and delivers himself in strong language. He generally rises on great constitutional points, and certainly with much information.

formation. It is this, and the high opinion entertained of the goodness of his intentions, that makes him listened to, his voice being coarse and vulgar, and his manner rude and awkward in the extreme.

But whatever *ambiguity* there may have been in this gentleman's political conduct, we are very ready to acquit him of any at present. His support of Mr. Pitt is honorable and manly. Nor can he fail being thought to have furnished a most laudable example, when he last session declared, "that those who had taken an active part in supporting the war at its commencement, ought not now to shrink from their former opinions, merely *because the success had not been equal to their hopes.*"

"He insisted, that the war was a contest *for our existence as a nation*, and that, *were our resources to fail*, we ought still to continue it, although we should be *able to do nothing more than bite with our teeth.*"

formation. It is this, and the high opinion entertained of the goodness of his intentions, that makes him listened to his voice being coarse and vulgar, and his manner rude and awkward in the extreme.

EARL OF MANSFIELD.

But whatever ambiguity there may have been in this gen-

NO one stands higher on the barometer of public fame than this distinguished nobleman, who is no less eminent for the greatness of his birth and mind, than his near relationship to the noble and illustrious person from whom he derives his present title.

His lordship is the seventh Viscount Stormont, of the kingdom of Scotland, created in 1621, and is nephew to that great and learned character, the late Earl of Mansfield, who was Solicitor General to his Majesty in 1742, Attorney General in 1754, and Lord Chief Justice of the court of King's Bench in 1756, and created a peer of Great Britain, the 9th of October, 1776, by the title of Lord Mansfield, and afterwards Earl Mansfield, in which he was succeeded by the present Earl on his death in 1792, till which time his lordship sat in the English House of Lords as one of the sixteen peers of Scotland.

The noble earl, who, to use his own words, "has enjoyed the highest honors, and passed the most considerable part of his days in the possession of the greatest emoluments from his Majesty," early in life distinguished himself as one of the ablest members of the *corps diplomatique*, and resided many years at Paris, with
a very

a very high character, as his Majesty's ambassador extraordinary to the court of France.

In 1779, and soon after his return to England, his lordship was appointed secretary of state for the northern department, on the death of the Earl of Suffolk, in which high official situation he remained till the year 1782, when he was succeeded by Mr. Fox. On the 2d of April, 1783, he was made Lord President of the council, which he resigned the 19th of December following, and in 1794 his Majesty, unasked by the noble earl, was graciously pleased to grant to his son, the reversion of the place of Lord Justice General of Scotland, which he has held ever since the year 1778, having been then appointed to it on the death of the late Duke of Queensberry, as a reward for his public services in his diplomatic capacity.

His lordship is also a knight of the thistle, and has for many years past held the office of joint clerk of the pleas of the court of King's Bench.

In the review of his political history, he will be found to have been in opposition till the session before last, since which, his lordship has taken a very active part with the present administration, whose measures are certainly entitled to no inconsiderable increase of public confidence, by the approbation and support of a nobleman of his lordship's judgment and penetration.

Considered as a speaker his lordship undoubtedly ranks amongst the ablest. His knowledge of foreign politics,

for which his long residence abroad has peculiarly qualified him, and acquaintance with the true interest of the British empire, which his lordship has well studied, in all her various points of view, is very great, if not unbounded. Hence, there is no question, in which his lordship's talents are not exercised equally to his own credit and the information of the House, and on great constitutional points, and especially on matters, in the discussion of which a consideration of the relative state of Great Britain with respect to other countries as to its politics or commerce, are necessarily involved, his powers as a statesman and an orator are shewn to the greatest advantage. His language is always correct, his arguments strong and forcible, and his manner extremely polite and impressive.

His lordship had for his first wife the daughter of Count Bunan of Saxony, who died 7th of March, 1767, and on the 6th of May, 1776, was married to the third daughter of the late Lord Cathcart.

LORD

At the general election in 1790 he was returned, with the Marquis of Worcester, for the city of Bristol, which place he at present represents.

LORD SHEFFIELD.

THE branch from whence John Baker Holroyd, Lord Sheffield, is descended, flourished in the north of England as early as the reign of Edward the First.

His lordship, who takes the name of Baker from his mother, commanded a troop of light horse, in the regiment raised by the Marquis of Granby, in the year 1760. When peace was concluded in 1763, he went abroad, and travelled, some years, over the principal parts of Europe. Soon after his return, the militia of Suffex being embodied, under the command of the Duke of Richmond, on a war breaking out with France in 1778, he served in it with the rank of Major.

In the summer of the year 1779, when the combined fleet was on the coast of England, he offered to raise a regiment of light dragoons, without expence to the public, and his tender being graciously accepted by his Majesty, the regiment was completed in the course of a few weeks.

In February 1780, he was elected a representative in parliament for the city of Coventry without opposition, and in the month of June following, during the insurrection in London, he much distinguished himself by his activity and courage in suppressing it.

At the general election in 1790 he was returned, with the Marquis of Worcester, for the city of Bristol, which place he at present represents.

On the 18th of December, 1780, he was created a peer of Ireland, by the name, stile, and title of Lord Sheffield, Baron of Dunamore, in the county of Meath, and on the 20th of September, 1783, Lord Sheffield, Baron of Roscommon, with remainder to his daughters, and their male issue. He married in 1767 the daughter of Lewis Way, Esq. which lady dying, he married again in 1785 a daughter of Doctor Digby, late Dean of Durham.

His lordship is the celebrated author of *Observations on American Commerce*, and other works of equal celebrity, and is not less known as the man of fine taste, the useful country gentleman, the active magistrate, and the brave and intelligent officer.

As a parliamentary debater Lord Sheffield is distinguished by a clearness of judgment and a manly boldness of speech. The first time he spoke in the House of Commons, he attacked the turbulent ambition and declamatory eloquence of Mr. Fox, with a steadiness of observation, and a degree of spirit, that delighted the one side of the House, and not a little struck the other. He boldly adverted to the praises generally bestowed on Mr. Fox's oratory, and declared, he wondered, from the specimen he had heard of it, how that House could ever be so fascinated by it.

He possesses an active and comprehensive mind, and an animated countenance, at once expressive of those social qualities which adorn him as a private individual, and of that ardour which distinguishes his conduct in public life.

His lordship has always been with government, and with such qualities, it is unnecessary to add, that his support must be an honor to any administration.

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MARQUIS

MARQUIS OF STAFFORD.

GRANVILLE Levison Gower is the third son of John, Earl Gower, a nobleman, who, during a great part of the late reign, was esteemed one of the principal supporters of what is termed the Tory interest, whose favor he lost by his acceptance of the office of lord privy seal, in the famous change in the year 1742.

His lordship was born in the year 1720; and, after an education from which he received such improvements as might be expected from the advantages bestowed upon him by nature, he early entered on a line of public life, in which course he has ever since continued.

In 1744 he was elected a member of Parliament for the borough of Bishop's Castle, in Shropshire. In the next Parliament in 1747, he was unanimously chosen for Westminster, but in November 1749, having accepted a place at the board of admiralty, he again declared himself a candidate.

At this crisis those who styled themselves the independent electors of Westminster, determined to use their utmost endeavours to baffle the designs of the court, with a view to which they set up a private gentleman, Sir George Vandeput, as a rival, declaring they would support

port him at their own expence, in which they were encouraged by the countenance and assistance of the Prince of Wales and his adherents.

They accordingly opened houses of entertainment for their particular partizans, solicited votes, circulated remonstrances, and propagated abuse; in a word, they canvassed with surprising spirit and perseverance against the whole interest of St. James's.

Mobs were hired, and processions made on both sides, and the city of Westminster was filled with tumult and uproar. The mutual animosity of the parties seemed every day to increase during the election, and a great number of unqualified votes were on both sides presented. All the powers of insinuation, obloquy, and ridicule, were employed to vilify and depreciate both candidates. At length the poll being closed, a majority of votes appeared in behalf of Lord Trentham, but a scrutiny being demanded it was granted, and the business of it at length laid before the House of Commons by way of complaint. The consequence of this was, that some of the parties were censured and imprisoned; but Lord Trentham was allowed to be the fitting member.

In the next Parliament, 1754, his lordship was chosen for Litchfield, but sat only a short time, as by the death of his father, December 24, 1754, he succeeded to his title, and removed into the House of Lords.

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On this event he was constituted lord lieutenant of the county of Stafford. On December 19, 1755, he was appointed lord privy seal, and in January following was sworn one of the privy council. Resigning the privy seal, he was on the 2d of July, 1757, appointed master of the horse to the King. He continued in office during the remainder of the late reign, and on the 25th of November, 1760, he was nominated keeper of the great wardrobe. On the 23d of April, 1763, he was elected lord chamberlain of the household, and in that quality stood proxy on the baptism of the present Duke of York.

In the year 1765, on the change of the ministry, he was removed from his post, and during the Rockingham administration was in opposition to the ministry. During this period he voted against the repeal of the stamp act, and other statutes relative to America.

Another change soon afterwards happening, he was on the 23d of December, 1767, appointed lord president of the council, which he quitted in 1779, and in 1785, he was appointed lord privy seal, in which office his lordship was succeeded by Earl Spencer in 1794.

His lordship is a knight of the garter, which honor was conferred on him the 11th of February, 1771, and the 28th of February, 1786, he was advanced to the dignity of Marquis of Stafford. He is also lord lieutenant and custos rotulorum of the county of Stafford,
recorder

recorder of Stafford, a governor of the Charter House, and a vice-president of the Middlesex Hospital.

His lordship has been married three times, viz. in 1744, to Elizabeth, who died in 1745, daughter of Nicholas Fazakerly, Esq. of Prescot, in Lancashire. 2dly, in 1748, to Lady Louisa Egerton, who died in 1761, daughter of Scroop, Duke of Bridgewater. And 3dly, to Lady Susanna Stewart, daughter of John, Earl of Galloway.

This nobleman, who has on a variety of great and important occasions afforded ample specimens of his powers as a ready and able speaker, is one whose weight in the senate, and importance in the state, is well known and acknowledged. To considerable talents he has united great application, and to great connections no small share of personal abilities. In the service of government he has been active, firm, and persevering; in opposition, sedulous and determined.

Nor is the noble Marquis less to be noticed on his own account, than for the family he has the happiness to boast of.

His son, Earl Gower, who was born the 9th of January, 1758, and married September 4, 1785, to the Countess of Sutherland, has also made a no inconsiderable figure in public life. His lordship, in 1787, was elected one of the representatives in Parliament for Staffordshire,

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on the death of Sir John Wrottesley, Bart. and has ever since continued one of its members in Parliament.

In 1792, his lordship's political knowledge and abilities, joined to his high hereditary consequence and rank, pointed him out to the notice of administration for an employment, generally entrusted to persons of great family and talents, and his lordship was sent at a critical juncture, as ambassador extraordinary, and plenipotentiary, to the court of France; in which situation, however, the proceedings of the Convention the following year, rendering it derogatory to his diplomatic character to remain any longer at Paris, his lordship returned to England.

Of the daughters of the Marquis of Stafford, one is married to the right honorable Sir Archibald Macdonald, lord chief baron of his Majesty's court of exchequer; and another to the right honorable Dudley Ryder, joint paymaster general, and son to Lord Harrowby; two characters, intended by nature and education to shine with particular lustre, the one in the senate, and the other in the first distinctions of the law.

MICHAEL

(61)
MICHAEL ANGELO TAYLOR, Esq.

THIS gentleman is the son of the late Sir Robert Taylor, many years surveyor to the Bank and other public buildings, and sheriff of the city of London in the year 1785.

He received his education at Westminster school, and after qualifying himself for the bar, was admitted a barrister at law, and in 1784 was chosen a member for Poole, and afterwards in 1791 for Heytesbury, his present seat in parliament.

Soon after his election into the House of Commons, he took an opportunity of stating his political creed, and of declaring, "*that he meant to support the minister on every occasion*", from the confidence he had in his integrity, and the high estimation in which *he* should ever hold his abilities."

Notwithstanding this, and the praise with which he loaded Mr. Pitt, whether it was that he felt himself hurt that his legal abilities as one of the Welch judges should be dispensed with, or from some other disappointment, he thought proper to join opposition on the merits of the Westminster election, the 9th of February, 1785, on which occasion he suffered himself to be betrayed by his
extreme

extreme *modesty*, into an expression so highly *ludicrous* as to have gained him ever since, the appellation of the *chicken* of the law, and to have affixed such an idea of ridicule to his character, as no length of time will probably ever efface.

He declared, "that he delivered every legal opinion " in that House, and elsewhere, with the *humility* that " became him. He was young,—he was but what he " might call himself a mere *chicken* in the profession, but " he could not vote with ministry."

Mr. Taylor has, accordingly, for some years past acted with opposition, and served, though in a subordinate order of rank, with uncommon zeal and perseverance against lotteries, barracks, and other objects of light attack, for the purpose of harassing administration.

He is also amongst the foremost for a parliamentary reform, which, as the late Lord North shrewdly observed, like many a *translation*, might probably have more *defects* than the original.

The situation in which he has rendered himself most conspicuous, has been as one of the managers appointed by the House of Commons for conducting the impeachment of Warren Hastings, Esq.

On this occasion he has frequently exercised his powers of oratory. His great *forte*, however, has been thought to lay in *reading*, in which line of service he often exercised

cised himself in Westminster Hall, during the late trial, for many hours together.

In this department he has been thought, and even by those of his friends, to have been rather heavy, dull, and torpid, and to have produced a very *sleepy* effect; but this surely ought to be excused, when it is considered, that the great mass of matter he had to wade through, was almost entirely on the *opium* contracts.

LORD MENDIP.

THIS veteran in the field of politics, better known as Mr. Wellbore Ellis, and who was last year created a peer of Great Britain, was *father of the House of Commons*, to which he was first elected for Weymouth.

His lordship has ever been esteemed one of the most steady, uniform, and able supporters of government in either House of Parliament, as there has scarcely been any administration the last forty years in this country, in which he has not borne a share.

The first conspicuous part his lordship took was in the expulsion of Mr. Wilkes, and the vote of incapacitation which followed in the spring session of 1768, in which he displayed the most unwearied and indefatigable zeal.

His lordship distinguished himself on various important occasions in the Lower House, particularly on Mr. Grenville's act relative to controverted elections, the American war, and the royal marriage bill, which he warmly patronized, and carried to the House of Lords, as *chairman* of the committee on it in the Lower House.

On American affairs he was uniform, decisive, and steady. He always declared himself for the supremacy of Parlia-

Parliament, and spoke very pointedly against the minister's conciliatory proposition of the 20th of February, 1775, and frequently hinted at the supineness of administration, their indecisive conduct, and mistaken lenity, and attributed all our miscarriages to a want of firmness, alacrity, and information.

His lordship was made one of the vice-treasurers of Ireland in 1760, which he resigned in 1762. He was again appointed one in 1765, and quitted it in 1766. In the year 1770 he was a third time made one of the vice-treasurers, and continued in that office till 1777.

He was appointed secretary at war in 1763, treasurer of the navy in 1777, and secretary of state for the Colonies in 1782, but at present holds no public office or trust whatever.

The measures in which his lordship has shewn the strength of his abilities, and the usefulness of his talents, have been exceedingly numerous. The last public business he took an active part in, was as chairman of the committee appointed by the House of Commons in 1788, to examine for precedents in the appointment of a regency, in which delicate and difficult situation he gave great satisfaction by his diligence, judgment, and penetration.

As a parliamentary speaker he is certainly very able. He is well acquainted with men and books, practice and speculation. Long trained to business, and the various details of almost every official board, he speaks on every

subject connected with them with the utmost perspicuity, confidence, and precision.

To a sound native understanding, he has united a close and judicious attention to politics, the result of which is, that he is one of the *best* informed men in Parliament.

His oratory is not shining or brilliant, but his discourses are all regular, correct, and well finished. He delivers himself in the language of a *gentleman* and a *scholar*, and with an elegance and conciseness equalled by few, and scarcely surpassed by any.

He never fails to close his speeches by proving his arguments on the clearest principles of *logical* deduction, nor is his lordship less dexterous in demolishing the arguments of his opponents, than in raising and judiciously constructing his own.

DUKE

DUKE OF PORTLAND.

THE present Duke of Portland was born the 14th of April, 1738, and succeeded his father the late Duke in May, 1762.

His Grace was formerly a member of the House of Commons, and was elected for Weobly in 1761.

In 1765 he was appointed lord chamberlain in the room of Lord Gower, which office his Grace resigned upon the change of ministry in 1766.

In 1782 he was appointed lord lieutenant of Ireland, the then critical situation of the affairs of that kingdom requiring a person of his Grace's character. On this occasion Mr. Grattan congratulated his country, and rejoiced "that they had a *vice-roy* who was so distinguished a friend to the liberties of man. The amiable "manners, Whig principles, and hereditary purity of "his Grace, said this gentleman, appear destined to restore the lustre of Ireland. To his virtue and good "sense, supported by the wisdom and energy of the "ministers at home, we may hope for the recovery and "deliverance of the sister kingdom."

On which, however, is meant the fact.

On the famous coalition between Lord North and Mr. Fox, in 1783, his Grace was made first lord of the treasury, in which high situation he was succeeded by the present minister, whose administration he joined in 1794, being then appointed to his present office as one of his Majesty's principal secretaries of state. His Grace is also a knight of the garter, and Lord Lieutenant of the county of Nottingham.

The junction of this great political character, whose constitutional principles had so long been a subject of the highest panegyric with the members of opposition, who had been the sun of their political hemisphere, and had given them life, health, beauty, and vigor, and shed a radiance on all their names, at once bespoke his Grace's confidence in the measures of administration, and his abhorrence of a set of desperate reformers, exulting in the admiration of Gallic principles, and giving countenance every where to the propagation of the most savage republican tenets.

The Duke of Portland parted from one of the reformers with the reluctance with which good men part from an old friend. He lingered awhile in hopes of winning him from the dangerous course, in which, with grief, he saw him engaged. But when he thus perceived, that those whom he had honored with his countenance were quite hostile to his monarchical Whig principles, it was naturally to be expected, that his Grace would spurn their schemes, even admitting, that he had ever sanctioned a reform, which, however, is by no means the fact.

But admitting for a moment that his Grace, like Mr. Pitt, and others, entertained sentiments favorable to any of the plans of reform in 1782, in which were chiefly concerned some men of property and respect, and when no republican doctrines were broached, it is no reason that his Grace should, in 1794, afford the least encouragement to any reform promoted by factious, but disguised republicans, and abetted by the lower ranks of a like turn of mind, and who in general do not possess any property whatever.

The Duke of Portland by not suffering himself to be bit by the Jacobin mania of reform in 1794, nor on any former occasion, but on the contrary, most cordially uniting with administration in the support of our liberty and property, is highly honorable to himself, and pleasing to all true lovers of their country. His ephemeral bravoës may bespatter his name, but they can never stain his honor. It is burnished and rendered the more impervious by an indispensable and meritorious political union. And he has the solacing comfort of reflecting, that his fame is safe, and his country is free.

His Grace's consistency and independence remain as high as ever, since every one must believe in the words of Mr. Pelham, "that the Duke of Portland and his friends, after having long opposed Mr. Pitt on *principle*, did, on *principle*, at length support him, and coalesce without any stipulations whatever. And having supported him like men, unconditionally, as the circumstances of the

"country became more pressing, they courted a share in
"the responsibility of his measures."

Nor is it merely on a difference of opinion, on the subject of reform, that his Grace has quitted opposition. The eagle-ey'd Burke pointed out, long ago, from the topmast, the dangerous rocks that threatened the vessel of the state, if she were suffered to steer a French course. When the beguiling haze that enveloped her was dispelled, and all, but a few treacherous pilots, were fully sensible of the danger, had she kept on in such a track, it was then that the Duke of Portland, Earl Fitzwilliam, Mr. Windham, and many others, stepped forth to her assistance.

He seldom takes any part in the debates, unless for the purpose of explanation, when his Grace always delivers himself with great fairness, ease, and candor, and in that mild and pleasing manner by which all his actions are so highly characterised in private life.

His Grace's consistency and independence were as high as ever, since he was one must believe in the words of Mr. Robinson, that the Duke of Portland had on "after having long opposed Mr. Pitt on principle, had on Mr. Robinson's support, and, as it were, without any illusions whatever, and having been one of the most consistent and as the circumstances of the day, had been, it is for good, and for good."

MR. MARTIN.

THIS gentleman, who is an eminent banker, and one of the members for Tewksbury, for which place he has sat in the House of Commons ever since the year 1774, has long been distinguished for the independence of his character, and the constitutional principles on which he acts.

No one has more strongly or more repeatedly reprobated the coalition between Lord North and Mr. Fox, as well as their famous East India bill.

When it passed the House of Commons, and was going to the Lords, Mr. Martin said, "I rise to give a parting execration to this pernicious and unconstitutional measure." And in so odious a light did he view the union of two men who had for so many years condemned each other, that "he wished to see a *starling* perched on the right elbow of the speaker's chair, who, whenever a pernicious measure was brought forward, should repeat incessantly—*disgraceful, shameful coalition!*"

This gentleman has also made himself remarkable for setting his face against the admission of peers to hear the debates, and has frequently had the House cleared of them on a sudden. Indeed, it has long been wondered at, that there

there is not a gallery erected in the Lords for the accommodation of the members of the Lower House, the want of which is supposed to have given Mr. Martin so much cause of offence.

No one was more pointed or satirical in his animadversions on Mr. Fox's anxiety, respecting the regency about to be appointed, in the year 1788; his conduct, he said, reminded him of a scene in Shakespeare's play of Henry the Fourth, where Falstaff reckoned upon what would be done for him and his associates, when the prince should come to the crown, which was then daily expected, and was continually assigning places of dignity and character to the most deserving of his friends."

This gentleman frequently takes a part in the debates, and has, on several occasions, expressed his opinion of the abilities and integrity of the minister in the most flattering terms.

"And in so obvious a light did he view the union of two men who had for so many years condemned each other, that he wished to see a gallery erected on the right elbow of the speaker's chair, where, whenever a pernicious measure was brought forward, it could be best incessantly—disparaged, derided, and despised."

This gentleman has also made himself remarkable for his face against the admission of peers to bear the debates, and has frequently had the House cleared of them on a division. Indeed, it has long been wondered at, that there

MR. FOX.

THIS celebrated orator is the second son of Henry, the first Lord Holland, created a peer of Great Britain in 1762, by Lady Georgina Caroline, eldest daughter of his Grace the late Duke of Richmond.

He was born the thirteenth of January, 1749, and is descended by the mother's side, from the famous, but unfortunate House of Stuart. He is consequently not only allied to the present reigning family, but also to most families of the highest rank, as well as the greatest antiquity and influence in England. But though Mr. Fox came into the world under all the advantages of a noble genealogy and an ample fortune, his natural endowments are such, as must have distinguished him in any situation whatever.

His father successively filled the offices of secretary at war, secretary of state, and paymaster general of his Majesty's forces, in which latter situation, he is said, on account of the length of the war, to have amassed a prodigious fortune.

Charles James Fox, whose portrait we have now before us, his second son, was always his favorite. The celebrity which marked his progress in the acquisition of classical learning, at Eton College, where he is said to have mastered

mastered every task and science by a kind of intuition, procured him an immediate and a decided superiority in every class he joined.

His public studies at this celebrated school were under the direction of Doctor Barnard. His private tutor was Doctor Newcombe, the present bishop of Waterford, who derives more fame, perhaps, from such a fortunate circumstance, than from any preferment the church can afford him.

From Eton he went to Oxford, where the brilliancy of his parts, the urbanity of his manners, and the vivacity of his conversation, were soon equally conspicuous and popular. After remaining a short time in these venerable shades of literature and philosophy, he obtained his father's permission to travel, and certainly no one was ever better qualified to derive instruction from such an endless succession of novelty and variety as travelling affords.

The parliamentary history of Mr. Fox is equally voluminous and miscellaneous. His first career commenced in opposition to the people, and he was appointed one of the commissioners of the treasury in 1772, but differing in opinion with Lord North, the minister, he was suddenly and laconically dismissed therefrom by a note delivered to him by the door-keeper of the House of Commons.

Mr. Fox now became one of the most violent opposers of ministry, insomuch that he was stiled "*the man of the people*," and continued to have that title till his famous coalition

coalition with Lord North, when he was made one of his majesty's principal secretaries of state, which office he resigned in a few months, upon the death of the Marquis of Rockingham, and held again upon the Duke of Portland's being made first lord of the treasury in 1783.

He again quitted it at the end of the year, when the Portland administration was turned out by his India bill, and has ever since been in opposition to government.

These are the only public situations he has ever held, except the clerkship of the pells in Ireland, to which he succeeded as part of his patrimony on the death of his brother, the late Lord Holland, in 1774, and disposed of to government in 1775, when it was given to the present Lord Hawkesbury.

Mr. Fox first sat in the House of Commons for Midsbury in 1768, he was afterwards chosen for Malmesbury in 1774, and has since the year 1780 been a member for the city of Westminster, for which he has stood several of the severest contests ever known in the electioneering annals of this country. On the subject of one, that in 1784, the merits of which were brought before the House, Mr. Hardinge observed, there had been *forty-eight* speeches besides many by-battles fought with great spirit.

The popularity which Mr. Fox gained by his uniform and spirited opposition to Lord North during the American war, was equal, perhaps, to any thing ever possessed by an individual. No one ever stood higher in the opinion

opinion of the people. His coalition, however, with this nobleman in the year 1783, lost him, as Mr. Wilberforce observed, "*the confidence of the country,*" and threw him into that shade, from which, no length of time, no atonement, or repentance whatever, can possibly recover him.

Nor can this be thought at all surprising, when it is considered, that it was wholly in pointing out the political enormities of this minister, and in solemnly promising to bring him to the scaffold, that he had raised himself so high in the estimation of the public. A thousand times he had declared, that he detested Lord North not merely as a *minister*, he abhorred him equally as a *man*. For ten years, and upwards, he called him by every vile and opprobrious name, and accused him of every crime that could be crowded within the scope of human turpitude. Yet, when every eye was eager to view this gigantic champion in the cause of political virtue, stretch forth his uplifted arm to drag the great state delinquent to the scaffold, he was found audacious enough to form one of the closest unions with him, and even to take him to his bosom with all his moral and political sins on his head, for Mr. Fox even suffered Lord North to declare in the House, "*that no mean concession had been made on his side. He appealed to his right honourable friend, if he had sacrificed any one opinion he had formerly held.*"

The shameful profligacy of this conduct struck a general alarm as well as horror. In and out of Parliament it was equally condemned and reprobated. "It surely, said Mr.

Pitt,

"Pitt, would have staggered even the faith of the most credulous, had any one, for example, affecting a spirit of prophecy, predicted, that two great parliamentary characters, *who had always moved in different lines*, who were known to each other only by their *political animosities*, whose opposition was *avowed*, whose resentments seemed *implacable*, and their hatred *fixed*, should, in a mysterious moment, coalesce, and unite against a minister, by reprobating a peace, which the one had rendered *necessary*, and the other *had declared to be so*."

That such a junction could possibly exist but through an extraordinary degree of influence was obvious to the meanest capacity. A bill, therefore, was brought in by Mr. Fox, the 18th of November 1783, "for vesting the affairs of the East India Company in the hands of certain commissioners." Any one less bold and daring would never have ventured on a measure so glaringly for the purpose of supporting a power that could not be maintained by fair and constitutional means, and which Lord Mulgrave said, "*would trample the Brunswick line under foot*;" but Mr. Fox had undone himself by his coalition with Lord North, and might with Shakespeare say---

—————"I am in blood,

"Stept in so far, that should I wade no more,

"Returning were as tedious as go o'er."

By this bill, which it is hardly necessary to say was thrown out by the Lords, seven commissioners of Mr. Fox's nomination were appointed to manage the affairs of the

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the East India Company, under whom eight directors were named to conduct the ordinary business at the East India House.

Mr. Wilberforce compared the seven commissioners to seven physicians, and the eight directors to eight apothecaries, come to put the patient to death *secundum artem*. Sir Pepper Arden, master of the rolls, said the bill made Lord North a king, and Mr. Fox an emperor---the emperor of the east! The seven commissioners might also be considered as seven emperors, tributary and subordinate to the emperor of the east. And amongst many other observations from different members in both Houses, Sir Richard Hill said, that Mr. Fox always carried two glasses about him, he meant his magnifying glass, and his multiplying glass. In his former, his magnifying glass, the bill would have appeared big with the most alarming danger of increasing the influence of the crown, and of extending ministerial power, which things were always considered as the *buggyboos* and *rawhead* and *bloody bones* with which Mr. Fox used to terrify his *cara sposa* before these two persons were joined together in holy matrimony.

His Majesty having thought fit to dispense with Mr. Fox's farther services on the rejection of his India-bill, he became more violent than ever in his opposition to ministry. The conduct of this gentleman, and those he acted with, on the appointment of a regency, in 1788, will long be remembered. The indecency of hurrying the matter through the House of Commons was argued against with the greatest force of reason, and particularly

on the hope of the King's recovery, in which case it might, in the words of Sir John Scott, be said, "what, could you not do your duty for three short months? were you so hasty to dethrone the king your lawful sovereign, to whom you have all sworn allegiance, that you treated him with the grossest disrespect, and stript him of every mark of regal dignity and distinction, after he had been ill *no more than a month!*"

Though Mr. Fox does not mix with the people, nor frequent any of the popular meetings or societies, he is considered as being at the head of those who are for a parliamentary reform. He is, indeed, if we may be allowed the allegory, the *king* of opposition. He has his two Houses of Parliament, and at the opening and ending of every session, never fails making a most gracious speech to his friends in the Lords and Commons. But he never goes to, or joins in the *debates* of the Society of the Friends of the People, the London Corresponding Society, and the other clubs that at present form the democratic government over which he is supposed to hold such imperial sway.

With respect to a parliamentary reform, on which Mr. Fox pretends to be so much in earnest, opposition, as Sir Richard Hill observes, instead of now disputing by *whom* parliamentary business ought to be done, ought to proceed to the immediate *doing* of it. There are many things, said Sir Richard, fit and proper to be done at one time, that at another would be thought highly inexpedient, and *mal à propos*. To particularize only one instance

in familiar life; he had heard that Mr. Fox was remarkably fond of *whist*, and could even correct *Hoyle* himself; yet, if a few friends were to come to his house in the middle of the night, knock up all his family, wake him out of a sound sleep, and insist upon his immediately getting up and playing a rubber at his favorite game, might he not well answer, "My friends, what are you about? are you out of your senses? Whist I love, and will play as many rubbers as you please *to-morrow evening*, but *sleep* is now the thing that I want, and that my *constitution* wants also." Besides, the right honorable gentleman might add, "you have disturbed me in a most pleasing dream, wherein methought I was in the House of Commons, and methought we even divided upon my motion for a parliamentary reform, and methought I had a majority of more than two hundred." Mr. Fox might, therefore, address his friends in the words of Horace, or nearly in the words of Pope; "Asleep, a patriot of distinguish'd note,
Awake, reduc'd unto a single vote."

Amongst the *satellites* that glitter in the zodiac of his parliamentary fame, there is nothing more spoken of than Mr. Fox's great *financial* knowledge. A very superficial view, however, of his history, will surely prove him to be possessed of a great deal of *ignorance*, or *prejudice*. For many years past he has represented us as utterly *ruined* and *undone*, and wholly *incapable* of raising any farther supplies. Yet it is hardly to be doubted, but that he might, even in this *exhausted* state of the country, be prevailed

vailed upon to accept the reins of government; at least, a very small portion of that candor he affects to possess, would oblige him to give no little merit to the present minister, who, so many years after he has pronounced our resources to be entirely gone, is found to open new funds of supply, and to carry on with the utmost energy and vigor, a war as expensive, as it is just, and which will insure him, not only the administration, but the blessings of future ages.

The disappointed hope of proud ambition never fails to fill the breast with envy and revenge. When first Fox discovered Pitt's rising abilities, said Mr. Dundas, in the House of Commons, he was earnestly desirous of connecting him with his party, he was anxious to take him under his protection and tuition, but as soon as ever he found the right honorable gentleman unwilling to submit to his trammels, and determined to think for himself, from that time he has resolved to set him down for the most haughty, corrupt, unconstitutional, and dangerous minister this country ever produced. It is just thus, added Mr. Dundas, that Mr. Fox has at all times thought proper to monopolize all patriotism, all public principles, and all love of liberty to his own single self. "I am the palladium of the liberties of the country, I am the champion of the constitution, I am the only man of the people, I am the single *Atlas* of this free state."

The time was, continued Mr. Dundas, when his invectives fell with some force and efficacy on the ministerial band he was opposing; but when I see him pour-

ing forth such alternate praises and execrations on the same men, according as they are his political friends or foes, he must excuse my telling him, that all his virulence, all his sarcasms, and all his insults, are not capable of irritating any one single passion in my breast, and I may even hope that in the vicissitudes of human affairs, the time, perhaps, may come, when I may be recompensed for all the grossness of these declamations, *by the most unbounded panegyric* on my virtue, my talents, and political character.

In the year 1793, Mr. Fox's friends, at a general meeting, agreed to present him with *one hundred thousand pounds*, as a testimony of their approbation of his private virtues and public conduct, and a general subscription was opened for that purpose. Mr. Fox was pleased to signify his readiness to accept of this magnificent gratuity, but what part of it he actually received was never made known.

On the subject of the French revolution and the present war, Mr. Fox can have gained little credit. Experience has too plainly proved, that the former has not tended either to the honor or happiness of the people of France; and the votes of Parliament, as well as the general sense of the country, appear, at this time, more strongly than ever in favor of the latter.

But who can wonder, as Mr. Pitt has finely expressed it, at his giving vent to those violent and splenetic emotions, to which his present situation so naturally gives birth, a situation in which, to the torments of baffled hope,

hope, of wounded pride, and disappointed ambition; is added the mortifying reflection, that to the intemperate and improvident use he made of his power and influence while they lasted, he can alone attribute the cause of all those misfortunes to which he used so constantly, so pathetically, but unsuccessfully, to solicit the pity and compassion of the House.

There is no one act, perhaps, of Mr. Fox's, so likely to cast an indelible stain on his political character, as his conduct in Parliament on the subject of the Prince of Wales's debts. A prince, of whom he and his friends so often used to exclaim at the doors of Carlton House—

“Come, shall we in, and taste Lord Timon's bounty?”

“He, sure, outgoes the very heart of kindness:

“He pours it out. Plutus, the god of gold,

“Is but his steward. No meed but he repays

“Sevenfold above itself. No gift to him

“But breeds the giver a return exceeding

“All use of quittance. *The noblest mind he carries*

“*That ever governed man!*”

Yet, because his Royal Highness, as well as the Duke of Portland, and other men of property, thought fit to detach themselves from his party when it became a reforming faction, Mr. Fox could have the effrontery to affirm, “that the people would see no atonement for past imprudence in the Prince's paying 25,000*l.* per annum towards the reduction of his debts.” Though it was well remarked by him, that the duty of Parliament to the

Prince of Wales and to the public was the same, for in consulting his dignity, they consulted the public interest.

Mr. Fox admitted, that the splendor of royalty was not only necessary to monarchy, but to all states, even to a republic, and that it should extend beyond the monarch to those around him, and brighten the circle within which he stood. He endeavoured, however, almost in the very same breath, to do this axiom away, in the true stile of Lord Lansdown, by allowing it only as a general proposition, subject to all the modifications or reforms of times and circumstances: and of such modifications, owing to certain politic, and not public reasons, he and his friends arrogated to themselves the fitness, both as to the period, as well as to the occasion. Mr. Fox was of opinion, that the splendor of the prince was better supported by dignity of mind, than magnificence and profusion of expense, and joined in recommending him to retire from that splendor which he had acknowledged was so necessary to monarchy and the national dignity, and in which he said all people so much delight.

In short, the whole history of Mr. Fox affords little more than matter for the severest animadversion. Every Englishman is proud to see a manly, fair, and constitutional opposition. But all true and genuine patriots, every disinterested and dispassionate man, have long shuddered at beholding nothing else but an undermining and reforming opposition. An opposition that has hitherto shewn no real regard either for the just prerogatives of the sovereign, or the essential privileges of the people. An
opposition

opposition who pay their court only to the rabble, to discontented dissenters, and disaffected republicans; for Mr. Fox has too much sense and understanding, not to know, that Parliament is only to be used as the medium through which they can work on the passions of the people, and inflame their minds against government. In Parliament they are perfectly harmless and innoxious; they know they cannot mislead it, and are content to use it as a *funnel*, through which they convey their nauseous draughts to the more unthinking part of the community.

With regard to the oratorical talents of Mr. Fox, whose declamatory torrent, like the deep and rapid falls of *Niagara*, overwhelms every unsuspecting bark that is drawn too near its vortex, their powers are well known to every student in politics. As a scholar, and in depth of erudition, no one comes before him. His speeches are extremely classical, and his knowledge fully competent to every subject. He expresses himself with amazing volubility, and deals much in detail. He attacks with great boldness, and excels most in showing a question in some new point of view, or in giving the most wonderful effect and colouring to parts that have, in other hands, made little or no impression on the House.

Yet is he far from being a good orator. He has neither order, nor method, and his tone of voice is frequently insignificant, and sometimes apt to produce a very ludicrous effect.

No one conducts himself with more art. He never speaks of professional men but in the warmest strains of panegyric, nor suffers any thing of a personal nature, or like abuse, to escape him against any one, except the minister, whose conduct he attacks on all occasions in the most general terms of censure and reprobation,

In Parliament they are perfectly harmless and innocuous; they know they cannot mislead it, and are content to use it as a vessel, through which they convey their malicious denunciations to the more unthinking part of the community.

With regard to the oratorical talents of Mr. Fox, whose designation, torrent, like the deep and rapid falls of Niagara, overwhelms every unobtrusive dark stream drawn too near its vortex, their powers are well known to every student in politics. As a scholar, and in depth of erudition, no one comes before him. His speeches are extremely classical, and his knowledge fully competent to every subject. He expresses himself with amazing volubility, and deals much in detail. He attacks with great boldness, and excels most in throwing a question in some new point of view, or in giving the most wonderful effect and colouring to parts that have in other hands, made little or no impression on the House.

Yet is he far from being a good orator. He has neither **GENERAL** method, nor his tone of voice is frequently faltering, and sometimes apt to produce a very bad effect.

4

GENERAL TARLETON.

THIS gentleman is the son of Mr. Tarleton, a respectable merchant at Liverpool, through whose interest he was elected one of its representatives in Parliament in 1790.

His military character will be found in the history of the American war, in which he served with great gallantry and spirit, and acquired a degree of reputation equal to that of any other officer of the British forces.

On his coming into Parliament he took a decided part with opposition, and has ever since been one of the most active in arraigning the conduct of ministry with regard to the war, and in condemning every military operation in its prosecution.

Indeed, from a review of his parliamentary history, he seems to have been particularly appointed to this *post*, which is generally given by the party to some young man in the service, and from which General Fitzpatrick, whom he has succeeded, wished most probably to be relieved in order to have a command at *home* against the minister.

Hence

Hence every movement in the campaigns we have had has been ignorantly planned and weakly executed; troops have been sent to one place when they should have been sent to another; all our officers have been boys, and our recruits either too old or too young. The minister has been severely censured for not doing what was from the nature of it altogether impracticable, and highly criminated for not having guarded against events that could not possibly be foreseen or conjectured; even the hard *frost* that enabled the French to effect the invasion of Holland, has been made a foundation of the most serious charge against him.

In short, this gentleman has so fully pointed out the defects of our military operations, and shewed with such wonderful clearness and facility, how we might have been triumphant and successful in every thing, and every where, that one cannot help regretting his not having been employed; in which case, we should have had no more complaints of the present war, than we had of that in America, which, during the whole course of it, was never once reprobated by him, though full of errors and miscarriages, besides, that the *object* of it was by no means so laudable or meritorious, as that now carrying on against France, which is certainly for the purpose of preventing the utter destruction of all civil order and society.

Professional men are never made the subject of his censure; *their* conduct, on the contrary, is always sure of having his praise. We do not mean by this to represent

sent them as undeserving of it, but, perhaps, if the General was in the actual service of government, he might think the members of administration equally void of blame in the prosecution of the war.

As a speaker he is certainly very able. His language is strong and forcible, his observations ready and well pointed, and his manner spirited and animated.

MR. ROLLE.

NO one has ever sat in Parliament with more independence of character, or a higher sense of honor than this gentleman, who is one of the representatives for Devonshire, for which place he was first elected in the year 1776.

His conduct has always been regulated by the truest and most steady regard to the real and genuine principles of the constitution, which he has on all occasions defended against the inroads of opposition with the utmost spirit, courage, and firmness, and a degree of ability and effect that has done him the greatest honor.

No one has been more uniform in his support of the minister, to whom he seems attached through the most pure and uninfluenced coincidence of sentiment on all great political points, and especially where government and the more important measures of administration have appeared to call for a fair and honorable defence against the attacks they have received.

On Mr. Bastard's boasting of his independence, Mr. Rolle took occasion to observe, "that he always acted
" from the dictates of his conscience, and delivered his
" sentiments with the same indifference to parties, as his
" worthy colleague had declared he did." A conduct,
which,

which, we are happy to add, derives no little weight and respectability, from the large landed property and great personal influence that he possesses.

Mr. Rolle is colonel of the fourth regiment of the Devonshire militia, and in the year 1786, when the enemy were expected to land on the coast of Devonshire, offered to go down and raise five hundred men at his own expence.

In the affair of the regency in 1788 the part Mr. Rolle took will ever reflect the greatest lustre on his name. He wished every respect to be paid the Prince of Wales, but declared, "that however brilliant might be his virtues, or illustrious his character, it should never so far dazzle his eyes, as to make him lose sight of the duty he owed to a lawful and much-beloved sovereign, and to the people of England."

As a speaker he is always ready and fluent, and never fails to curb the unbridled intemperance of opposition with a becoming spirit, in the exercise of which, the buffoonery of Mr. Courtenay, and the impertinent wit of Sheridan, are frequently chastised and repelled.

MR. FRANCIS.

THIS gentleman, who was formerly first clerk of the war office, under the late Lord Barrington, is one of the representatives in Parliament for Yarmouth, in Hampshire, for which place he was first elected in 1784.

He has always been on the side of opposition, and principally points his attacks at the affairs of India, and particularly those of Bengal, with which he is extremely conversant, having been a member of the Supreme Council under Mr. Hastings. He was one of the managers of the impeachment of the House of Commons against that gentleman, the materials for which cost Mr. Burke thirteen years in collecting, and the hearing of which took up more than seven years, of a trial before both Houses of Parliament, assisted by all the judges in England, in Westminster Hall.

Mr. Francis chiefly confines his animadversions on the civil government of India, and is incessantly at the Board of Controul, the conduct of which never fails supplying him with constant subjects of attack, on all which occasions he never arraigns, without pretending to have a very sincere regret for the cause, which has made Mr. Dundas observe, "that he would much rather have the decla-

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"matory violence of Mr. Fox, than the affected *candor* of
"this gentleman."

He certainly has abilities as a speaker, but his speeches are frequently of the most immoderate length, and by far too long to claim the patience they stand in need of. In the senate, as well as on the stage, the space of time occupied by any one of the actors, is generally proportioned in the imagination by the consequence attached to his character. This Mr. Francis does not appear sensible of, and hence very often greatly exceeds the part allowed him in the political drama.

Owing to this want of unity he frequently tires before he has well got to the middle of his speech, but it is very necessary, perhaps, that there should always be some speakers, like the late Mr. David Hartley, and others, to afford the members an opportunity of going up to Bellamy's to get their dinner, or any refreshment they may stand in need of, without losing any of the essential part of the debate.

LORD

LORD HAWKESBURY.

HIS lordship is descended from a very ancient and respectable family, and is nearly related to Sir Banks Jenkinson, Bart. of Walcot, in the county of Oxford.

After being properly initiated in the first rudiments of learning at the Charter-house in London, he was removed to the university of Oxford, where he distinguished himself as the author of some verses on the death of the father of his present Majesty, and continued till about the year 1752, when he became master of arts.

In the year 1759, his abilities acquired no little fame by "A Discourse on the Conduct of the Government of Great Britain with respect to Neutral Nations during the present War," which his lordship wrote and published for the purpose of defending administration in the seizure of some Dutch vessels carrying French property. This learned and masterly performance, exhibiting great information, deep research, and a perfect acquaintance with history and civil law, was much read by the public, and gained his lordship the most honourable and flattering marks of approbation and regard from ministry.

His lordship was about this time introduced into the treasury, and soon after became private secretary to the Earl

Earl of Bute. On the advancement of this nobleman in 1761 to the secretaryship of state, his lordship appointed him to be one of the under secretaries. On the 1st of June, 1762, he was promoted to the treasurer'ship of the board of ordnance, and in April, 1763, he was appointed one of the joint secretaries of the treasury.

He was elected a member of parliament for Harwich in 1772, for Hastings in 1774, and for Saltash in 1784, which he continued to represent until the 21st of August, 1786, when he was called to the Upper House.

On the introduction of the Rockingham ministry in 1765, he lost his posts, but in July that year, he was made auditor of accounts to the Princess Dowager of Wales.

On the next revolution of politics, his lordship was in 1766 made one of the lords of the admiralty, in which he continued till December 1767, when he was appointed one of the commissioners of the treasury, a place which he held five years. In 1772, he was appointed a vice-treasurer of Ireland, and was made clerk of the pells in Ireland in 1775, on the resignation of Charles Fox, which situation he now holds. He is also chancellor of the duchy of Lancaster, and president of the lords of the committee of council of trade and plantations.

His lordship is a frequent speaker in the Lords, as he was for many years in the Lower House, and from his long experience in Parliament, and intimate acquaintance

with politics, must be considered a very able and powerful friend to government.

Indeed the weight of his opinion from his well-grounded knowledge of business, and the political interests of Great Britain, has often caused him to be suspected of possessing some particular kind of *private influence*, by which he has directed the public measures, and sometimes to be directly charged with it. In the year 1783, however, his lordship took occasion to observe, in answer to an insinuation of the kind thrown out by Mr. Fox, "that he had been frequently honored with his Majesty's commands to attend him in the *closet*, but that it had always been on *official business*;" in this his lordship was confirmed by Lord North, who was immediately appealed to for the truth of the assertion.

No one in either House understands the constitution of his country better than his lordship. He has well studied it, and never fails to defend it, knowing how essential it is to the happiness of the people. Indeed, as his lordship has observed, it were much to be wished "that the youth of Great Britain would study the constitution of every other country, that they might learn the defects of each, and by that means, be the better enabled to judge of, and admire the beauties and benefits of their own."

As a speaker, as well as a statesman, his lordship stands eminently distinguished. His manner is always important, and well arranged. He delivers himself in a dignified manner, at the same time, that what he says, flows from

him

him with wonderful ease. The warmth of debate never puts his temper in any kind of danger. He is always cool and collected, and yet sufficiently animated to give a proper force and energy to what he says, which is always attended to with great respect by both sides the House.

His lordship, who was born August 2d, 1753, is the third Earl of Stanhope, and succeeded his father in 1786. James, the first Earl of Stanhope, married, February 2d, 1711, Lucy, youngest daughter of Thomas Pitt, Esq. of Wiltshire, ancestor of the Earl of Chatham, and Lord Camelford, by whom he had three sons, the late Earl, who married in 1745, General Hamilton, daughter of Viscount Binning, son of Thomas, Earl of Haddington, in Scotland.

His lordship was a member of the House of Commons and for Chipping Wycombe, for which place he was elected in 1780, and continued till he succeeded to the peerage.

He married, December 19, 1774, Hester Pitt, eldest daughter of William, late Earl of Chatham, who died the 18th of July, 1780. He afterwards married Elizabeth, daughter of Henry Grenville, Esq. late Governor of the Bank, and niece to the Duke of Buckingham, by whom amongst other children he has three sons, Viscount Mordaunt, born June 4, 1782.

EARL

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 per force and energy to what he says, which is always
 directed to with EARL STANHOPE.

HIS lordship, who was born August 3d, 1753, is the
 third Earl of Stanhope, and succeeded his father in 1786.

James, the first Earl of Stanhope, married, February
 24, 1713, Lucy, youngest daughter of Thomas Pitt, Esq.
 of Wiltshire, ancestor of the Earl of Chatham, and
 Lord Camelford, by whom he had issue, Philip, the late
 earl, who married in 1745, Grizel Hamilton, daughter of
 Viscount Binning, son of Thomas, Earl of Haddington,
 in Scotland.

His lordship was a member of the House of Commons,
 and sat for Chipping Wycomb, for which place he was
 elected in 1780, and continued till he succeeded to the
 peerage.

He married, December 19, 1774, Hester Pitt, eldest
 daughter of William, late Earl of Chatham, who died
 the 18th of July, 1780. He afterwards married Eliza-
 beth, daughter of Henry Grenville, Esq. late governor of
 Barbadoes, and niece to the Marquis of Buckingham, by
 whom amongst other children he has issue a son, Viscount
 Mahon, born June 4, 1785.

One of the severest contests ever known in this country for a seat in Parliament was encountered by his lordship in the year 1774, when he stood with Lord Viscount Mountmorres for the city of Westminster, in opposition to Earl Lincoln, the late Duke of Newcastle, and Earl Percy, the present Duke of Northumberland.

Earl Stanhope and Lord Mountmorres beat their opponents out of the field in *speechifying*, but the great family connexions and fortunes they had to contend with, left them in a considerable minority at the end of a most tedious and violent poll.

The noble lord was many years a strenuous advocate for the present minister, in praise of whose merit and abilities, he has on a variety of occasions been extremely lavish.

He is, at present, in opposition to administration, at least with regard to the French revolution, and the prosecution of the war. He has always expressed himself concerning the former in terms of the highest admiration, and has for some time been amongst the few in the House of Lords who have advised an immediate peace.

No one carries his notions of a parliamentary reform farther than his lordship, being decidedly and avowedly for universal suffrages, annual elections, and a total extinction of all placemen, pensioners, and contractors.

His lordship is well read, and possesses a great deal of knowledge, but has yet to learn the vast difference between *theory* and *practice*. It is an easy thing to make governments in the closet. A more equal representation of the people may also be had. Though if all the different cities, counties, and boroughs were to-morrow to elect members of parliament according to the number of their inhabitants, it is impossible, from the fluctuation of all human affairs, that it could, any more than an *equalization* of property, long remain so; and after all, before the constitution is torn up by the roots to please the speculative *furor* of a few modern reformers, it surely is incumbent in them, to make it appear, that the alteration they propose would be likely to procure 558 members more virtuous and independent than are obtained by the present mode of election.

As a speaker the noble Earl is extremely fluent, but he is more impetuous than animated, and is so extremely irregular in the tones of his voice, sometimes dropping them suddenly from the highest to the lowest key, and sometimes raising them as suddenly from the lowest to the highest, that, joined to the *eccentricity* of his manner, it is impossible any thing he says can ever be expected to make a serious impression.

Indeed we cannot forget the observation that the late Lord North once made of him in the Lower House, when taking occasion to attack one of his loans, and to attempt to prove all the calculations it contained false
and

and erroneous, the minister, with his usual turn for sarcasm, remarked "that the noble earl was a very great man without any experience, but that when he had experience, he would be the *wonder* of the age."

His lordship, who was born in 1752, and succeeded his father in 1776, is the twelfth earl, and was married in 1778 to Lady Elizabeth Hamilton, only daughter of James, late Duke of Hamilton and Brandon, by whom he has issue, Edward, Lord Stanhope, born 21st of April, 1773.

In his politics the lordship has always been with the Tories, to whom he apparently is attached by the strongest coincidence of sentiment. In the review of his recent trial history we find him continually in the ranks of that great assembly. Indeed, a reference to his conduct will serve as an index to the character of the noble Earl, who to speak in vulgar phraseology, seems to have followed him through thick and thin in his parliamentary career.

On the 18th of August, 1783, his lordship was appointed chancellor of the duchy of Lancaster, which situation, however, he only held till the 31st of December following.

EARL OF DERBY.

THE title of this nobleman was first created in 1485, and is the second earldom in the list of British peerage.

His lordship, who was born in 1752, and succeeded his father in 1776, is the twelfth earl, and was married in 1773 to Lady Elizabeth Hamilton, only daughter of James, late Duke of Hamilton and Brandon, by whom he has issue, Edward, Lord Stanley, born 21st of April, 1775.

In his politics his lordship has always been with Mr. Fox, to whom he apparently is attached by the strongest coincidence of sentiment. In the review of his senatorial history we find him continually in the *wake* of that great *oppositionalist*. Indeed, a reference to his conduct will serve as an *index* to the character of the noble Earl, who, to speak in vulgar phraseology, seems to have followed him through *thick* and *thin* in his parliamentary career.

On the 19th of August, 1783, his lordship was appointed chancellor of the duchy of Lancaster, which situation, however, he only held till the 31st of December following.

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Of his lordship's powers no mean opinion is to be formed if we consider how much they have been tried, and to what occasions they have been thought equal. His lordship undertook to reconcile the coalition of Mr. Fox to Lord North, to defend his East India bill, to support him in the affair of the regency, and, in short, to give his conduct a colour of reason and consistency, when even his own ingenuity and effrontery has been unable to do it.

His opposition in Parliament is chiefly directed against the war, and the various operations by sea and land in the prosecution of it, all which his lordship attacks as founded in ignorance and error, and of a tendency at once ruinous, if not *fatal* to the British empire.

He speaks with great readiness, and in a neat, lively, and pointed manner, and generally directs his attacks where they are most likely to be felt. But his want of voice, person, and address, must for ever prevent him from arriving at any degree of eminence as an orator.

SIR JOHN SCOTT.

THIS distinguished character was born at Newcastle upon Tyne, where his father acquired a handsome fortune in trade, and is brother to Sir William Scott, his Majesty's advocate-general, and member for the borough of Downton.

Sir John Scott, after leaving Oxford, was admitted a student of the Middle Temple in Hilary term, 1772, and was called to the bar in 1776.

In 1783 he obtained a silk gown, and soon after was elected a member of parliament for Weobly, in Herefordshire, which place he has ever since represented.

His professional talents recommending him to the patronage of Lord Thurlow, in 1788 he was appointed his Majesty's solicitor-general, when he received the honor of knighthood, and in 1793 he succeeded to the situation of attorney-general, on Sir Archibald Macdonald's being made lord chief baron of the Exchequer.

Such abilities are calculated to do honor to any station. He soon began to make a very distinguished figure in the House of Commons, for which the time he was chosen a member was particularly favorable. On the subject
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of Mr. Fox's East India bill he displayed the most uncommon talents, and was amongst the most powerful of its opponents. He also was much employed in arranging the regency bill, which involved as much legal doctrine as the authority of the statutes could perhaps be found to furnish. But on no occasion did he more happily exert himself, than on the motion for the suspension of the habeas corpus act, his reasoning in favor of which effectually silenced the dreadful apprehensions of opposition on account of the liberties of the people.

The part of Sir John Scott's parliamentary history that will be most likely to transmit his name with no small share of *eclat* to future ages, is the concern he had in 1794 in the prosecution of persons charged with high treason, a more momentous business than which never engaged the attention of an attorney-general, or came under the legal discussion of a court of justice.

The situation he had the honor to hold, imposed a duty on him as severe, in any sense of the word, as could be thrown on an individual; the task he had to perform was of the most solemn and important nature: he was to conduct a great public prosecution, on which the whole nation was in a manner convulsed, in such a way as to render it effectual, but it was also his duty not to render it effectual by violating any one of the rules of the law, or of justice.

On this arduous and laborious occasion, in which he gave his services to the public without any fee or reward,

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it was his lot to stand in a variety of characters, and to be called upon to act in a variety of capacities. First as a member of the committee of the House of Commons to whom the papers relative to the conspiracy had been referred, then to examine it in a more important light as his Majesty's attorney-general, and, lastly, to consider it in a legislative point of view.

The ablest men in the profession, Sir John Scott observed, had agreed with him in thinking it a proper case for the consideration of a grand jury, who had sanctioned by their concurrence, after a sitting of four days, the opinion he had formed.

With respect to the question, whether the acquittal of a person by a jury, proves his innocence, or not, he said, "in point of law, and, indeed, in point of common sense, the real, and the only effect of a verdict of *not guilty*, generally speaking, was, that the person *could not be tried again for the same offence*. No man, who pretended to know any thing of the *theory* of the law, no man who knew any thing of its *practice*, could for a moment contend, that a verdict of *not guilty*, was a full establishment of the *moral* innocence of the party accused."

It is not often that this gentleman delivers himself in the senate, and when he does, he affects less to be a champion than a meek persuader, and is rather the calm reasoner than the boisterous declaimer. Indeed, it is the opinion of many, that violence can only be effectual and productive

productive, in proportion as the audience want discernment.

His legal knowledge is universally allowed. It is impossible for any one to understand a case more clearly, or explain it better. He is always completely master of the subject; to make himself acquainted with which, he always appears to have given it every degree of attention and consideration.

He is, perhaps, one of the shrewdest men in the House of Commons, and though he sometimes seems embarrassed, from beginning a speech in a low tremulous tone of voice, yet the formalized and steady tenor with which he pursues his argument, progressively removes any supposition of the kind.

When he speaks it is generally at great length; at the end of three hours he appears no more exhausted than when he began. His language is always elegant and correct, and he seems rather to pride himself in the depth of his understanding, and the closeness of his reasoning, than to attempt distinguishing himself by the fineness of his oratory, or the splendor of his eloquence.

LORD

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LORD KENYON.

HIS lordship is the eldest surviving son of Lloyd Kenyon, of Bryn, in the county of Flint, Esq. by Jane, his wife, eldest daughter of Robert Eddowes, of Eagle Hall, in the county of Chester, Esq. which Lloyd Kenyon was son of Thomas, a younger son of the ancient family of Kenyon, of Peele, in the county of Lancashire.

He was married in 1773 to his cousin Mary, third daughter of George Kenyon, Esq. of Peele, and was created a peer of Great Britain the 7th of June, 1788.

His lordship was regularly bred to the profession of the law, and after practising principally at the Chancery bar for many years with the highest reputation, was, on account of his great abilities, in the year 1783 appointed his Majesty's attorney-general, and also lord chief justice of Chester. He was made master of the Rolls in 1784, and attained his present high situation of lord chief justice of the court of King's Bench in 1788, on the resignation of Earl Mansfield.

In 1780 he was elected a member of Parliament for Hindon, and in 1784 for Tregony, for which place he continued to sit till he was called to the Upper House.

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His lordship has given many proofs of his professional talents, and will no doubt long adorn the page of history, for his very able and zealous defence of Lord George Gordon, tried in 1780 for high treason, in the court of King's Bench, and who certainly owed his acquittal to having entrusted his cause in the hands of one, to whose character the public opinion had attached so many rare and excellent qualities.

In the King's Bench his legal powers are continually exercised for the good of the community. He is the greatest moral judge, perhaps, that ever presided in a court of law. In his lordship the cause of virtue and of justice never fail of meeting with a friend. The infamous seducer of female chastity and honor, whether in the virgin ruin of a beloved daughter, or the most adulterous crimes with a once fond and affectionate wife, never escapes his penetrating eye, nor those just and proper animadversions so necessary for the consideration of the jury, who have always coincided with his lordship, in thinking the severest punishment due to an offence, which, in its nature and tendency, roots up all faith and confidence between man and man, tears all the nicer bonds of life asunder, and entails the most endless disgrace and misery on civil society.

His lordship has also taken every means in his power for rescuing the honor of the profession from those, who are found to disgrace it by the infamy of their practice; many attorneys have, since he has presided in the court of King's Bench, been struck off the rolls, and otherwise punished

punished for the irregularity or baseness of their conduct ; and we doubt not that the present chief justice, the honor and integrity of whose administration has met with the highest applause in Parliament, will continue the infinite pains he has taken to render the profession respectable, by removing from it all such persons as he can possibly lay his hands on as proper objects for the resentment of the court.

His lordship as a speaker derives no little influence from his known integrity, benevolence of heart, and great moral virtues, which have not more recommended him to the love of the people, than to the immediate notice and esteem of his most gracious sovereign.

His lordship has also taken every means to the power of the profession from those who are found to dilige it by the industry of their practice ; many attorneys have, since he has presided in the court of King's Bench, been struck off the rolls and otherwise

RIGHT

Government, which he caused to be done in opposition to the opinion of the House of Commons, and the hazard of his life.

RIGHT HONORABLE THOMAS HARLEY.

THIS gentleman, who was originally intended for trade, first started into public notice in the year 1761, when he was chosen an alderman of London for Port-foken Ward, in the room of Sir William Calvert.

In point of wealth and family he is, perhaps, before any other person that ever filled the office of a magistrate of the city of London, and the first privy-counsellor that ever held that situation.

He is uncle to the present Earl of Oxford, and is descended from Robert Harley, Esq. who was chancellor and under-treasurer of the Exchequer in 1710, and lord high treasurer in 1711.

On the commencement of his political career his handsome person, powerful connections, ready talents, and engaging manners, soon rendered him a very formidable opponent to Mr. Wilkes and his party, who were at that time carrying every thing before them to a most alarming extent.

Mr. Harley was sheriff in 1763 at the burning of the famous North Briton No. 45, by a vote of the House of Commons,

Commons, which he caused to be done in opposition to the populace at the imminent hazard of his life.

An event happened during the time he was lord mayor in 1768, that gave him a still greater occasion for the exercise of his firmness and resolution. A most tumultuous mob riotously assembled round the Mansion House, for the express purpose of insulting the chief magistrate, on account of his zeal for government, and shewing how far they thought his power and authority might be set at defiance. Mr. Harley, however, instead of being dismayed, suddenly rushed out upon the rioters, seized hold of the ringleaders, and dispersed the rabble, which had collected together in great force, and threatened the utmost danger to the general peace.

He has several times been elected a member of Parliament for the city of London, to which honor he first succeeded in 1762, but is at present one of the representatives for Herefordshire, to which he was first elected in the year 1776.

Mr. Harley has always voted in favor of government, to which he has both in and out of Parliament ever proved himself a most powerful and steady friend. In the House of Commons he is of no little weight and consequence, and in the city, his services have been equally laudable and successful.

No one, perhaps, has been more in favor with administration; and his contracts with government, as well as his

his other various extensive and important concerns, must long since have put him in possession of the most independent fortune.

Besides being one of his Majesty's privy-council, he is lord lieutenant of the county of Radnor, and a lord of trade and plantation. He also holds several places of honor and trust in the city, of which he is the *father* or senior magistrate.

Mr. Harley was born the 29th of August, 1730, and was married the 15th of March, 1752, to the daughter of Edward Bangham, Esq. by whom he has been blessed with a numerous and lovely progeny, who have not a little increased the consequence of his family, one of his daughters being married to Lord Rodney, and another to the Earl of Kinnoul, both peers of Great Britain.

On the the late election of a member for the city of London, Mr. Harley came forward in support of Mr. Lushington, the avowed advocate for war, in opposition to Alderman Coombe, who had declared himself in favor of peace, and was very essentially instrumental in carrying that gentleman's election, the event of which clearly *proved* a very considerable majority of the livery to be decidedly with administration, a fact that had been disputed with the utmost confidence and effrontery.

LORD BRIDPORT.

HIS lordship is the second son of the Rev. Mr. Hood, who resided many years vicar of Butleigh, in Somersetshire, and afterwards of Thorncomb, in Devonshire, and is brother to Lord Hood.

His progress through the various walks of his profession has been such as to gain him the esteem and respect of every one, as well superiors as inferiors; his spirit and knowledge make him highly valued by the former, while his excellence as an officer, his humanity and benevolence, secure him the same sentiments from the latter.

In the last war his talents were long lost to the public when they might have been rendered most effectually beneficial, by the disgust he took at the conduct and event of the memorable dispute between Admiral, afterwards Lord Keppel, and Sir Hugh Palliser.

Though out of actual service, his country was not entirely deprived of the advantage of his abilities, his advice being constantly required by the Lords of the Admiralty.

His

His lordship is one of the representatives in Parliament for the town of Buckingham, and in 1783 was made a knight of the bath; he is also treasurer of Greenwich Hospital, and rear-admiral of England; and on the 15th of November, 1794, he was made a peer of Ireland, by the title of Baron Bridport of Cricket, Saint Thomas.

At the commencement of the present war his lordship's naval abilities were again called into action.

It is not our purpose to recount all his gallant services, so much to his own honor, and the prosperity of his country. The brilliant successes that have attended his lordship's professional exertions are well known to the public.

On account of the indisposition of Earl Howe his lordship has been invested with the command of the grand fleet, with which he has lately obtained a victory over the French, of the first importance to the naval and commercial interests of the country, and which may be considered as a happy counterpart to the glorious first of June.

All professional men speak of his lordship as a most excellent seaman, and in every respect qualified to add the highest lustre to the British navy.

From his lordship's great information and experience much use and benefit may be expected to the nation in general from his having a seat in the House of Com-

mons, the thanks of which, with the highest encomiums, were unanimously voted him for his undaunted bravery, and gallant conduct on the 1st of June in the entire defeat of the grand fleet of France, on which occasion the most general illuminations and rejoicings were continued for three days successively to testify the joy of the public.

RIGHT

RIGHT HONORABLE DUDLEY RYDER.

THIS gentleman, whose eloquence and knowledge acquired him such early fame in the House of Commons, to which he was elected for Tiverton in 1784, is the son of Lord Harrowby, Baron of Harrowby, in the county of Lincoln, created a British peer in 1776, and who, in 1762, married the daughter and coheirefs of Doctor Richard Terrick, Bishop of London.

Sir Dudley Ryder, Knight, grandfather of Mr. Ryder, born 1691, was bred to the law, and in 1756, his late Majesty, in reward of his long and faithful services, determined to raise him to the dignity of a peer, and a warrant was accordingly signed for the purpose, the 24th of May, 1756, but Sir Dudley died on the following day, before the patent was completed. He was Lord Chief Justice of the Court of King's Bench, and was succeeded at his death by the late Earl of Mansfield.

He is joint paymaster of his Majesty's forces with the Right Honorable Thomas Steele, and in his parliamentary conduct has always voted in favor of administration, of whose measures he is a most able and respectable supporter on the true principles of the constitution.

It is in the nature of genius to disdain approaching the more elevated distinctions of life in a gradual rise, and to reach at once the zenith of fame. Hence we find this gentleman on his first appearance in the political firmament, a star of the most brilliant lustre, and of a radiance at once the object of wonder and admiration.

In moving the address to his Majesty on his most gracious speech from the throne, on the opening of the session, it is an honor usually conferred on some young member, recommended on account of his family, fortune, or abilities. In 1787 this task was assigned Mr. Ryder, who in prefacing his motion, much attracted the general attention by the elegance of his expressions, the strength of his argument, and what in parliamentary language may technically be termed *point*.

Mr. Ryder said, facts were so convincing of themselves that they wanted no other aid than the mere recital of them, to gain the approbation of every individual, and that the fear, therefore, of acquitting himself respectably in the office he had taken, was proportionably the less, as there was the less occasion to depend upon himself. He had only to recapitulate the measures pursued, that the concurring sentiments of the House might be ensured to them.

The honorable gentleman then went into the merits of the conduct of administration in a speech so fully and so ably as to gain the highest tribute of applause. Mr. Fox said, "*that its eloquence was of the first order, and that it*

" was

"*was one of the best first speeches ever delivered in parliament,*" a compliment as honorable from the quarter from whence it came, as it was just to the person who received it.

Mr. Ryder's talents have been successfully used in a defence of the measures in general in support of government, and have frequently shewn a happy turn for *wit* as well as *argument*.

In the late voluntary subscriptions for the internal defence of the kingdom, which opposition laboured with so much *laudable* zeal and industry to prove *unconstitutional* and *dangerous*, Mr. Ryder, with great force and application, said, "It was worthy of remark, that the very same gentlemen who contended that the present subscriptions, in protecting the kingdom, were improper, and went to destroy the constitution, were the same gentlemen who *defended* similar subscriptions in 1782, on the pretext, that it was not *money*, but *arms* and *accoutrements* that were then subscribed, which was, in fact, saying, that it was illegal to subscribe, if the subscription was in the shape of a *guinea*, but perfectly legal and constitutional, if in the shape of a *musquet*, *sword*, or *bayonet*."

As an orator Mr. Ryder promises to rank in the first class. His speeches have great *matter* as well as *words*, and his language and manner are equally elegant and impressive.

He

120 RIGHT HONORABLE DUDLEY RYDER.

He was born the 22d of December 1762, and lately married to Lady Susan Levison Gower, daughter of the Marquis of Stafford, whose accomplishments have long been the admiration of the fashionable world.

SIR

SIR BENJAMIN HAMMET.

THIS gentleman, who furnishes in his history, a very striking and laudable instance of what may be expected from the exercise of a happy combination of industry and integrity, in the common concerns of life, is a magistrate of the city of London, in which he has long been established with the highest character, as a merchant and banker of the first consequence and respectability.

He was elected an alderman in 1785, and served the office of sheriff in 1789, equally to his own reputation and the honor of the city.

From the year 1780, he has been constantly in parliament. He was first elected at that time, again in 1784, and afterwards at the general election, in 1790, for Taunton, of which place he is a native, and most deservedly a favorite and popular representative, having considerably enlarged the town with new and handsome buildings, and endeared himself to it by the frequent exercise of that hospitality which he so largely possesses.

In the course of his senatorial duty he has been neither inactive nor unuseful. A more distinguished proof of the noblest principles of liberality, or the highest sense of honor, and first rules of justice and equity, was never afforded

forded in the conduct of an individual, than displayed by this gentleman, in his bringing in a bill for rendering the estates and private property of bankers liable to the demands of their creditors. And though the bill was thrown out, and Sir Benjamin Hammet thereby disappointed of his object, the laudable motive of his intention will always reflect the highest credit on his name.

Amongst the instances which he has given of his humanity, no one stands so eminently prominent in the public esteem, as his procuring an act of Parliament to discontinue the law for *burning* females convicted of coining, a practice which, to the disgrace of manhood, and all civilized society, had long obtained in this country.

Sir Benjamin Hammet has always been with administration, and is considered of consequence in the House, for his knowledge of trade and commerce, not only of this country, but also of America, in which he has resided.

As a speaker he is very ready, and always keeps closely to the question under discussion, in a proper view of which he is never deficient, and frequently very happy.

He received the honor of knighthood the 11th of August, 1786, upon the city's addressing his Majesty on his escape from the intended assassination of Margaret Nicholson, and married Miss Esdaile, daughter of Sir James Esdaile, a wealthy alderman, and Lord Mayor in the year 1778.

MARQUIS

MARQUIS CORNWALLIS.

THIS great and illustrious nobleman is descended from a line of ancestors who have variously distinguished themselves in this nation. He was born December 31, 1738, and after a liberal education, like his father, devoted himself to a military life.

During the War of 1756 he signalized himself on several occasions in Germany, which, at that time, might be called the school of war. Here he acquired experience and reputation and fixed his character on a foundation the most sure and lasting.

He very early became a member of the Senate, being elected to represent the borough of Eye, in the eleventh Parliament of Great Britain, and sat as one of the representatives for the same place, until he succeeded his father in the peerage the 23d of June, 1762.

His lordship was, at that time, colonel of the twelfth regiment, and in 1765, was appointed one of the lords of the bedchamber. In August, the same year, he had the honor to be appointed aid de camp to the King, with the rank of colonel of foot, and on March the 25th, 1766, was advanced to be colonel of the thirty-third regiment of foot, in the room of Sir John Griffin Griffin.

On the 27th of December, in the same year, he became warden, and chief justice in Eyre, of the forests south of Trent, and in 1770 he was appointed constable of the Tower of London, both of which posts his father had held before him. On September the 29th, 1775, he was promoted to the rank of major general, and in 1780, after having distinguished himself in several actions in America, the command of a part of the army there fell to his lot, the whole of which was surrounded and taken by the enemy the 19th of October, 1781, an event that has ever been considered as his misfortune, and not a fault at all imputable to his lordship.

On his return to England he lived a life of retirement till the year 1786, when the critical situation of the affairs of the East India Company requiring the aid of a person, whose integrity and abilities could claim the confidence of all parties, his lordship was selected to take the direction of that important concern with scarce a dissenting voice, and on the 19th of April, the same year, his lordship was appointed, by the Court of Directors, governor general of Bengal, and commander in chief of the Company's forces.

His lordship's administration in the East Indies forms a most shining part of his history, and cannot fail transmitting his character down to future ages with the highest lustre, particularly his last campaign, which happily terminated in the glorious defeat of Tippoo Saib, the son and successor of the celebrated Hyder Ally, and the reduction of that oriental tyrant, and ambitious prince, in
such

such a manner, as to prevent his again making head against the Company, or offering any insult or molestation to any of their allies.

On the return of Earl Cornwallis to England, he was unanimously voted the thanks of Parliament for his great and brilliant services, in consideration of which, the East India Company granted him an annuity of 5000*l.* per annum, for the term of twenty years.

In 1794 his lordship was entrusted by government with an important mission to the continent of a private and confidential nature, and on the late resignation of the Duke of Richmond, he was honored by his Majesty with the office of master general of the board of ordnance.

He is also constable of the Tower, and a knight of the most noble order of the garter, and was created Marquis Cornwallis the 15th of August, 1792.

His lordship in July the 14th, 1768, married Mary, daughter of — Jones, Esq. by whom he had issue one son, Charles Viscount Broome, born October the 22d, 1774, and a daughter, Lady Mary, born July 28, 1769, and married to Captain Singleton of the guards. Lady Cornwallis died the 14th of February, 1779.

EARL

EARL OF LAUDERDALE.

HIS lordship, who is also Viscount Maitland, Baron of Thirlestian, Musselburgh, and Bolton, and Hereditary Royal Standard Bearer of Scotland, and a baronet, succeeded his father, the late Earl, the 17th of August, 1789.

In 1784 he was elected a member of Parliament for Malmesbury, which he continued to represent till the death of his father, and in 1790 his lordship was elected one of the sixteen peers of Scotland, in which situation he at present sits in the House of Lords.

His lordship has always been with opposition, and is at present, a constant declaimer against the war, and every thing respecting the conduct of it, whether by sea or land.

He has been much in the study of politics, and is well versed in the history of the French revolution. His lordship is not only well acquainted with all the extraordinary events of it, their secret springs and movements, but has been equally so with all the *ringleaders* down to Robespierre, whose *mildness* of disposition, and general *philanthropic* maxims for the happiness of the people rendered him, as well as his associates, the object of a public execution.

Nor is his Lordship's knowledge of the affairs of France, and the principal actors, founded in mere report. He owes it entirely to his own personal inquiry and observation on the spot, having made frequent excursions to the continent for that purpose. Hence he never fails to afford the most ample supply of information on the subject, and to draw his conclusions with a bold and masterly hand.

His lordship, who is a staunch advocate for a parliamentary reform, and much distinguished as a *writer* as well as an *orator*, lately produced a publication, entitled Letters to the Peers of Scotland, a work that made some little noise in the House of Commons, from Mr. Windham's being charged in it with having made use of the expression, "*perish commerce, live the constitution*," though his lordship had been informed by his brother, the Honorable Colonel Maitland, that the exclamation had not been used by that gentleman.

This work has likewise been much talked of from a little bit of secret history respecting it, by which we learn, that

Doctor Moore found the *words*,
Doctor Mackintosh the *grammar*,
And George Robinson the paper.

As a speaker his lordship has great bustle and consequence, and possesses the art of giving an air of importance to what he says. He seldom, however, leaves any impression. There is a trifling detail in his speeches, rendered still more tiresome by frequent anecdotes, that bear

little or no allusion, and a petulance of remark, that always precludes him from delivering himself to advantage, or being listened to with any pleasure or satisfaction.

His lordship married the 15th of August, 1782, the only daughter of Anthony Todd, Esq. Secretary to the post-office.

His lordship, who is a French scholar for a parliament, is very liberal, and much distinguished as a writer as well as an orator. He produced a publication, entitled Letters to the Earl of Scotland, a work that made some little noise in the House of Commons, from Mr. Widdows's being charged with having made use of the expression, "my lordship," in the course of his speech. The lordship has been informed by the printer, that the edition had not been met by that gentleman.

This work has likewise been much talked of from its title of Letters to the Earl of Scotland, in which the lordship is supposed to have been the author.

Doctor Moore found the work, and Mr. Dods's distinction of the work, and Mr. George Robinson the printer.

As a speaker, his lordship has great power, and is not content with what he says, but he says it with great force and energy. He is a rising star in the political firmament, and will more than hold his own in any assembly that he may be called upon to address.

RIGHT

RIGHT HON. WILLIAM WINDHAM.

THIS gentleman, whose character so highly illumines the political hemisphere, was chosen one of the representatives in Parliament for the city of Norwich in 1784, which place he at present sits for in the House of Commons.

Mr. Windham's first speech in the British senate was made on the subject of the Westminster scrutiny, the 9th of February, 1785, when Mr. Fox took an opportunity of congratulating the House *on the great accession of abilities they had found in him.*

He continued to vote with opposition till the year 1793, when he connected himself with administration, and was appointed secretary of war in the room of Sir George Yonge, on which occasion he was honored with a seat in the cabinet, a mark of distinction that had never before been conferred on any person holding that office.

This gentleman had no sooner taken a decided part with administration than he became exposed to the most illiberal obloquy of those who had before equally extolled his talents and his principles.

" The calumnies cast on my coming into office are,
 " said Mr. Windham, only to be resisted by the shield of
 " character. To that, my noble friend, the Duke of
 " Portland, and I, resort. I am truly sorry the honor-
 " able gentleman, Mr. Sheridan, is not ashamed of such
 " low mean traffic. I defy him to shew a single circum-
 " stance that can tend to cast the shadow of doubt on our
 " conduct. The malice of the design is so corrected by
 " the impotency of the effort, that I will not sacrifice a
 " word in answering it. The honorable gentleman has
 " asked, why we did not continue as at first to give ho-
 " norable support to ministers without joining them.
 " But would not *support* without *responsibility* annexed to
 " it be mean and dishonest? In fact, if I had not come
 " into an *ostensible* office, where would the honorable
 " gentleman have found that *responsible* character with
 " which he threatens me in future?"

Nor was this the only check that Mr. Windham gave,
 not only to their personal attacks, but to their affecting a
 superior love and veneration for their country. " I can-
 " not but be a little surprized, said he, at this new-born
 " zeal for the constitution, coming from the quarter from
 " which it does, from those who will not now admit the
 " most superficial touch upon it, nor even

" Suffer the winds of heaven

" Visit its face too roughly,

" who now boast their readiness to step forward in de-
 " fence of that constitution, which they have attempted
 " to

“ to deliver over without remorse, *to the savage knife of*
 “ *every audacious reformer.*”

Again, on being attacked by Mr. Sheridan, he said,
 “ When the honorable gentleman wondered that he, who
 “ had been in the habit of voting with opposition, should,
 “ at present, act with administration, he hoped that the
 “ circumstance of his having long represented the state of
 “ the country to administration, and now *supported* them
 “ in their measures, *taken for its safety*, would be con-
 “ sidered as no evidence of his *insincerity* on the subject.”

The office of secretary of war was never filled by a per-
 son of more brilliant parts, or greater powers. It is
 equally certain that there never was a time when it was
 more arduous to execute. The war had from its com-
 mencement been subject to a variety of difficulties that
 never had attended any former one, and it was Mr. Wind-
 ham's lot to join administration long after opposition had
 declared it impossible that it could be prosecuted any far-
 ther.

Notwithstanding this, the public have the satisfaction
 of finding a much greater military force than ever in the
 pay of government, and all the operations of war carried
 on with the most uncommon energy and spirit.

The army at this time, including regulars, militia, and
 fencibles, amount to one hundred and forty-nine thou-
 sand, six hundred and twenty-seven men, and including

the India regiments, to two hundred and twenty-two thousand, six hundred and fifty-six men.

What also adds greatly to Mr. Windham's honor is, that while so great a force has been procured and kept up, every means in his power have been used to suppress the practice, of what is understood by *kidnapping* men into his Majesty's service.

Mr. Windham's talents as a speaker are of the most splendid nature. There is no one more *acute* in his reasoning. He possesses a most *logical* mind, and a strength of argument, that nothing can resist. He advances with the most undaunted spirit up to the intrenchments of opposition, and never shews himself to so much advantage, as when he is repelling the most desperate attacks of Fox and Sheridan.

Six

SIR GREGORY PAGE TURNER, BART.

THIS gentleman exhibits in his history a true model of the independent country member, and the genuine friend of the British constitution, considered equally with regard to the just prerogatives of the crown, and the known and established rights of the people.

He is one of the representatives in Parliament for Thirsk, in Yorkshire, to which he was first elected in the year 1784, and succeeded to a very ample fortune, and the title of a baronet, on the death of his uncle, Sir Gregory Page, who received that honor the 24th of August, 1733.

In his politics, unbiaffed by any private views, his vote seems to be the pure result of his own judgment, which he frequently, and especially on the more important topics of discussion, exercises with a spirit that bespeaks the integrity he possesses.

Whatever his abilities were, Sir Gregory took occasion in 1788, to observe in his place, his property rendered him independent, and he always delivered his sentiments according to his conscientious opinion. On those principles he said he came into Parliament originally, and he was de-

134 SIR GREGORY PAGE TURNER, BART.

terminated to pursue them as long as he should continue in it.

He frequently takes a part in the debates, and has, on more occasions than one, expressed his approbation of the minister, in terms highly flattering to his character.

Sir Gregory is esteemed a good scholar, and always delivers himself much to the purpose, and in those terms that cannot fail to ensure the respect of the House.

In private life he possesses the most amiable qualities, and is ever alive to the calls of friendship and benevolence.

Mr.

MR. J E K Y L L.

ON the death of Alderman Townsend in 1787, this gentleman, who is a barrister at law, was brought into Parliament for Calne, in the county of Wilts, a borough that has always been supposed under the immediate influence of the Marquis of Lansdown.

His conduct in Parliament has been particularly distinguished by a marked and uniform opposition to the measures of government, which he has, with very few exceptions, on all occasions attacked in every possible way.

The line in which he most exercises his talents and ingenuity is in bringing under the review of Parliament, the foreign treaties which the exigencies of the war may have rendered necessary, and in doing which he seems to be an exact counterpart to his illustrious patron in the House of Lords.

In the discharge of this part of his duty, the depth of his political knowledge shews the noble source from whence it flows. The motives and views of all the different princes of Europe are well known to him; he explores the inmost recesses of their cabinets at all times and on all occasions. He is no less acquainted with the
grand

grand springs and principal movements of foreign courts, than the relative interests of the nation in the formation of all treaties, which he never fails pointing out, if not with all the *gravity*, at least, with all the *consequence* of the most enlightened statesman.

Not that Mr. Jekyll's conduct in Parliament is wholly confined to treaties, alliances, and negotiations. His concern has been equally shewn for the domestic happiness of the people; and a more laudable instance of humanity was, perhaps, never afforded, than by his calling the attention of the minister to the situation of the poor with respect to the dearth of bread, and the scarcity of provisions.

The feeling with which he last session depicted the distresses of the times on account of the increased price in all the various articles of life, did no little honor to the philanthropy of his heart. It must, however, appear rather extraordinary, that neither Mr. Jekyll, nor any of the opposition, even from the Duke of Bedford down to General Fitzpatrick, have ever joined, at least, as far as is known to the public, in any of those liberal subscriptions for the relief of the poor, that reflect so much honor on the members of administration, and the country at large.

Mr. Jekyll is much in the habit of speaking, and frequently introduces some strokes of wit or pleasantry in his speeches, which are delivered in a good style, and sometimes with much point and neatness.

DUKE

DUKE OF LEEDS.

THE present Duke of Leeds is the fifth person who has possessed that title. He was summoned to the House of Peers in May 1776, as Baron Osborne, and succeeded his father as Duke the 23d of March, 1789. His Grace was born the 29th of January, 1750, and married July 21, 1773, the daughter of the late Earl of Holderness. His lordship's marriage was dissolved by act of Parliament in May, 1779, and the 11th of October, 1788, he was married to Miss Anguish, whose accomplishments had long made her admired in the more fashionable ranks of life.

His Grace's son, by his first wife, born the 2d of July, 1775, on the death of his mother succeeded to her barony, and is the present Marquis of Carmarthen, and Baron Conyers, by the latter of which names he sits in the House of Lords.

Previous to his being summoned to the Upper House as a peer of the realm, he was a member of Parliament, and sat for Eye, in Suffolk, for which place he was elected in 1774.

His

His Grace has held several high offices under government. At an early period he was made one of the lords of the bedchamber to the King; in 1777, he was appointed lord chamberlain to the Queen, and the 23d of December, 1783, was made one of his Majesty's principal secretaries of state for the foreign department, under the administration of Mr. Pitt, in which situation he continued till the 8th of June, 1791, when he resigned, and was succeeded by Lord Grenville.

In reviewing the history of this distinguished nobleman, we find him on a variety of occasions taking the most active part in support of government, and defending their measures on the true grounds of policy and justice.

His Grace particularly reprobated the insinuations of opposition. He said, he would on all occasions resist the imputations thrown out against administration, of its being a part of their system to *encroach* on the *rights* and *privileges* of British subjects. *He knew they possessed no such intention.*

Nor has the part his Grace has acted towards ministry since he has been out of office been less just or honorable. In reply to the Earl of Guilford last session of Parliament, on the subject of the late conspiracies, he observed, the noble earl had stated, that the plot which was said to exist, was negated by the event of the late trials, and that the whole of the proceedings on that matter had been founded on delusion: all he could say upon it was, *that*

if

if it was a delusion, it was a delusion so nearly resembling reality, that he was unable to distinguish the one from the other, for the whole of the plot at that time appeared to be a reality.

With regard to the late trials, he could say nothing against the verdicts given, but he would add, that if he had lived in the country, a total stranger to every thing that was passing in the metropolis, except what he might have seen in the news-papers, on account of these trials, he would say, that from the very nature of the defence of these people, he thought *there did exist in this country the conspiracy alledged.*

As a domestic man, his Grace's character is of the highest lustre. Humanity and benevolence are the natural characteristics of his heart; his whole life has been one continued series of private and public services; and never, perhaps, was real compassion, or true charity, more laudably exercised than by his Grace, as the *supporter*, if not the *founder*, of the philanthropic Society for the reception of the children of poor criminals; the object of which is to strike at the root of evil, by holding out an asylum to a set of wretched offsprings, abandoned by those who should have afforded them protection, to all the vices of the world, and their own sad and ignominious end.

His Grace is one of the most gentleman-like speakers in either house of Parliament. His language, like his manners, is free and easy; his deportment graceful and modest;

modest; and his arguments persuasive and unassuming. He seems to act on all occasions under the immediate influence of his own judgment, and to be anxious of regulating it by the true principles of the constitution.

He is lord lieutenant, and custos rotulorum of the East Riding of the county of York, high steward of Hull, governor of the Scilly Islands, captain of Deal Castle, governor of the Turkey company, president of Saint Luke's and the Small Pox Hospital, and a vice president of the Westminster Infirmary and Foundling Hospital.

WILLIAM

WILLIAM BAKER, Esq.

THIS gentleman is the son of the late Sir William Baker, well known as a merchant and an alderman of London, but who never served the office of sheriff, nor lord mayor, on account of his being one of the persons under the denomination of dissenters.

He was first elected a member of Parliament in 1768, for Plympton, in Devonshire, which place his father had formerly represented. In 1774, he stood a candidate for the city of London, but being unsuccessful, in 1777, he was elected for Aldborough, in Yorkshire. In 1780, he was chosen for the town of Hertford, but lost his election in 1784, with many other members who had supported the coalition of Mr. Fox with Lord North, and who, being rejected on that account, were called Fox's martyrs. In 1790, however, he got into Parliament for the county of Herefordshire, for which place he at present sits.

Mr. Baker, as well as his father, was engaged for many years in commercial pursuits, and served the office of sheriff of the city of London, with Mr. Martin, and was amongst the most active of those who stood forward at that time in support of Mr. Wilkes.

Enlisted on his first entering into the service of the public, under the immediate banners of Mr. Fox, he has uniformly joined in all his politics, and divides with him on every occasion.

He is amongst the most strenuous of the advocates for a reform of the representation of the people in Parliament, and seems to have succeeded the late Mr. Byng, as one of the tellers on all great questions on the side of opposition, an office that is at present attended with very little trouble.

As a speaker few more frequently address the House. There is a *petulancy*, however, in his manner, that is apt to tire, and to preclude him from that attention and respect which he would otherwise command.

DUKE

DUKE OF RICHMOND.

IN reviewing his Grace's political history, on the ministerial arrangement which took place in 1765, under Lord Rockingham, and the old Whigs, supported and patronized by the Duke of Cumberland, he was appointed ambassador to the court of France, in which situation he acquired no small reputation, particularly in his conduct relating to the demolition of the bastion at Dunkirk.

On his Grace's return to England, he was in May 1776, appointed secretary of state for the southern department, in which post he remained till succeeded by Lord Shelburne, who came into office the 2d of August, the same year with the Earl of Chatham.

From that remarkable period his Grace continued uniformly in opposition. His repeated contests with administration the whole of the spring session in 1775, shews what his opinions were on the disputes between this country and America. His Grace distinguished himself particularly in opposing the prohibitory fishery bill, and in supporting the petition from his Majesty's natural-born subjects residing in Canada, praying that the law passed the preceding session for regulating the government of Quebec might be repealed.

On the opening of the session of 1776, administration felt him a most weighty, as well as a warm antagonist. Besides his general grounds of opposition, he opened several new ones. He proved that the nation had been led imperceptibly into the war; that ministers answered for matters of which they were entirely ignorant, and deceived parliament with a previous intention of doing so. He pointed particularly at the first lord of the admiralty, who in the preceding session assured the House, that 22,000 seamen and marines would answer all the purposes of home protection and American hostility, and who the first day of the next session had the temerity to tell Parliament, that he knew the force was *not* sufficient, but *concealed* his knowledge of it for fear the measure at large would not meet with their concurrence and support.

His Grace took a very warm and active part in the motions of the Duke of Manchester, on the introduction of the Hanoverian troops into Gibraltar and Minorca; and the Duke of Grafton's, relative to the number of British troops serving in America, and those in the provincial service.

The motion for suspending the military operations against America, and countermanding the march of the foreign troops on the 5th of March, 1776, was brought forward by his Grace in one of the ablest speeches ever heard on either side the House; it took in the whole of the American question, both in point of justice, expediency, and practicability.

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On the 30th of March, 1782, his Grace was appointed master general of the board of ordnance, which he quitted the 12th of April, 1783, and again resumed the 26th of December the same year, and continued to hold till the year 1795, when his Grace was succeeded by the Marquis Cornwallis.

During the whole of Mr. Pitt's administration his Grace has proved himself a most active and able supporter of his measures. He has been steady in his attachment to the present minister, and unmoved in whatever he has thought right.

As a parliamentary speaker his Grace abounds with political knowledge, well selected. He arranges his matter judiciously, and seldom brings any thing forward that does not immediately concern the subject of debate, and is likewise important in itself. He possesses an extraordinary memory, and is uncommonly able in reply, and never fails to point out and detect whatever his adversaries endeavour to palliate, falsify, or misrepresent.

This, joined to his great sources of information, his personal boldness, his warmth of expression, his energy on some occasions, and his coolness and recollection on others, unite in rendering him a most valuable speaker.

His Grace is Duke of Aubigny, in France, which was confirmed and registered by the Parliament of Paris, in 1777, and Lennox in Scotland, Earl of March in

England, and Darnley in Scotland, Baron of Settrington in England, and Tourbolton, and Methuen in Scotland, and knight of the garter, &c. was born the 22d of February, 1735; and on the death of Field Marshal General Conway, which lately happened, his Grace was appointed colonel of the royal regiment of Horse Guards, said to be worth 4,000*l.* a year.

MR. HARDINGE.

THIS gentleman, equally distinguished at the bar, and in the senate, is nephew to that great and celebrated luminary of the law, the late Earl Camden, and is one of the members in Parliament for Old Sarum, for which he was chosen in 1784, some time previous to the general election.

His talents, which are equally brilliant and extensive, have always been exercised in the support of government, and were particularly so in defending the prosecutions on the late conspiracies against the state; in delivering his sentiments on which he expressed himself in the warmest strains of panegyric upon the British constitution, and especially that part of it which respects the personal security of the subject.

He should be, he said, of all men the most ungrateful, and of the coldest heart, if he had not caught, in some degree, that enthusiasm from his noble relation, Earl Camden, with whom he had been incorporated, if he might use the phrase, for the best part of his life in the most affectionate habits and the dearest friendship, nor could he forget that it was to that noble person in the other House of Parliament, that we owed the celebrated act upon the subject of liberty, which restored, and fixed

upon a rock, *the right of juries over the whole of the case in criminal proceedings.*

On the question whether the acquittal of a person by a jury was a full and complete establishment of his innocence, his professional abilities were displayed in a manner equally to his own credit, and the satisfaction of the House.

Speaking of juries, he said, *their province was to implicate, or exculpate individuals.* The House of Commons had a different and more extensive duty: they were to determine the *general* fact, that a conspiracy did or did not exist, and if they found its existence, to guard against the evil. The inference that a conspiracy existed, they had legislatively collected, when they passed the suspension bill, from the facts before them.

It was this gentleman who made use of the remarkable expression, "*perish commerce, live the constitution,*" so much alluded to in debate, and so generally imputed to Mr. Windham, but which Mr. Hardinge took an opportunity of fully avowing and justifying in his place.

Mr. Hardinge is a king's counsel, chief justice of Glamorgan, Brecon, and Radnor, in South Wales, and also solicitor general to the Queen, to which latter place he was appointed the 16th of April, 1792, in the room of Charles Ambler, Esq.

This

○ This gentleman's merits have long been known to the public as a lawyer and a counsel, to excel in which he is equally gifted by nature and education. Were the activity of his mind to keep pace with the vast capacity he possesses, there is no doubt but that he would make one of the greatest ornaments that ever graced the English bar. His large fund of legal knowledge, the rich powers of his intellects, the animated style of his eloquence, the admirable vein of his humor, his wit, and genius, have already established his character on the highest scale of estimation.

Previous to his being in Parliament he particularly distinguished himself on several remarkable occasions before several committees of the House of Commons, for deciding on controverted elections under Mr. Grenville's act, nor can his pride fail being highly gratified at the recollection that will long be had of his wonderful exertions, extraordinary talents, uncommon ingenuity, and brilliant success, on the contested elections for Worcester and Shaftesbury particularly in the years 1773 and 1774, the merits of which cases took up nearly six weeks in determining, and afforded him the most ample display of his knowledge of the laws of election, and an opportunity of entertaining his numerous and respectable hearers with an exposure of the arts of bribery and corruption of the richest and most luxuriant nature ever exhibited in a court of justice.

Considered as a Parliamentary speaker few rank before him on great constitutional points, upon which he delivers

himself in a bold and manly manner, and on a basis too firm and solid not to withstand the attacks of his opponents, whose doctrines he never fails to expose with equal spirit and ability, and the most happy effect.

SIR JAMES SANDERSON, BART.

THIS gentleman is amongst the few who have by their own personal merit raised themselves to a state of consequence in public life.

He came from Yorkshire, of which he is a native, at an early period, and established himself in trade, which he has for many years pursued with such success, as to have become one of the first characters in the city of London.

He was elected alderman of the ward of Bridge Within in the year 1783, and served the office of sheriff in 1786, with an equal degree of spirit and ability, and was Lord Mayor in the year 1793.

No one, perhaps, was ever better qualified to fill the city chair, and it was extremely fortunate, not only to the metropolis, but to the kingdom in general, that he was called to it at so critical a juncture. Anarchy had at this period just begun to shew itself in the most formidable shape, and even to bid defiance to every principle of order and government. Every thing depended on the vigorous exertions of magistracy to preserve the public peace, and the Lord Mayor of London was the first to nip sedition in the bud, by dispersing all illegal meetings, and

and pointing out to the people the dangerous tendency of their being misled by the factious and disaffected.

Sir William Walworth, Lord Mayor in the reign of Richard II, by killing Wat Tyler, put an end to that desperate rebellion. So another Lord Mayor has been found by his loyal and spirited conduct in 1793, and, like another Walworth, by his own personal courage, to put a total stop, and it is hoped a total end to the sedition that was bursting out through the capital to all parts of the kingdom.

By his vigilant exertions at a juncture, when the preservation or destruction of the public peace depended on the firmness, or timidity, of the chief magistrate of the city of London, he has not only ensured to himself the grateful remembrance of his fellow citizens, but has furnished a most laudable example to all future Lord Mayors of the ease with which any insurrection may be suppressed when resisted, in the first instance, with a boldness and resolution, equal to the extent and audacity of its design.

His conduct, equally loyal, wise, and decisive, was instantly followed throughout the country, and soon proved the happy means of securing peace and safety, not only to the city, but to every part of the kingdom.

In 1793 he was elected one of the representatives in Parliament for Malmesbury in Wilts, for which place he at present sits in the House.

His

His character as a public speaker had been well known in the city, as one of the most finished orators ever heard at its meetings on public occasions. Nor has he appeared with less *eclat* on the great theatre of Parliamentary discussion, though it has been the lot of many to have failed, on this large scale of public merit, who have been found to excel in situations less exposed to general observation.

Few men, indeed, have possessed a more graceful person, or spoken with a greater degree of elegance. The arrangement of his matter, and the choice of his language, are equally pleasing. His ideas are strong, clear, and happy; his arguments ready, bold, and forcible; and his conclusions just, apt, and striking.

Since he has been in Parliament, he has always voted in support of government, to which he has at all times shewn a steady and honorable attachment. And as a mark of respect due to his high character, both with regard to his own personal merit, and love of the true principles of the constitution, he had the honor in the session of 1794, of seconding the address to the throne, on which occasion he acquitted himself in a manner fully answerable to the expectations of his friends, and it will be thought impossible to pay him a higher compliment when their opinion of his abilities is considered.

In the city, where his name will long be held in the greatest esteem and respect, he is an eminent banker, president of Bridewell and Bethlehem hospitals, and a vice-president

president of the Philanthropic Society, the benevolence and utility of which are universally acknowledged.

As a peculiar mark of the royal approbation of his public services, his Majesty was pleased, the 25th of November, 1794, to create him a baronet of Great Britain.

He was lately married to Miss Skinner, daughter to the present Lord Mayor, whose accomplishments are well known to the public,

DUKE

DUKE OF GRAFTON.

THE present duke, who is grandson to the late Duke of Grafton, was born the 28th of September, 1736, and married January 29, 1756, Anne, only child of Henry Liddell, Esq. late Lord Ravenscroft, which lady being divorced from his Grace the 23d of March, 1769, he married the 26th of May, 1769, Elizabeth, daughter of the reverend Sir Richard Wrottesley, Bart. Dean of Windsor, and niece to the late Dukes of Bedford, and the present Marquis of Stafford.

Upon the arrangements proposed and carried into execution under the patronage and influence of the Duke of Cumberland, in 1765, commonly called the Rockingham administration, his Grace was appointed one of the secretaries of state, and continued in that situation till after the conclusion of the session, when he thought proper to resign.

Some time in the course of the session, finding a most formidable opposition to the measures of administration, he lamented its weakness, and said, for his part, he could not think of much longer remaining a member of it, because with the best dispositions to serve their country, the ministers every day experienced a want of support both in Parliament and elsewhere. He added, though he positively

tively intended to resign, that he would, if called upon again, cheerfully join in any future administration that should be formed upon a larger basis, particularly, if a certain great man, meaning Mr. Pitt, a leading member of the other House, were to be at the head of it.

On the advancement of that great orator, able politician, and consummate statesman to the peerage, in 1766, his Grace was appointed first lord of the treasury, the newly created Earl of Chatham, Lord Privy Seal, being the ostensible minister.

His Grace after taking the most vigorous and decided part in the repeal of the stamp act, at least acquiesced in the post duties. In 1769, however, when he found that all his predictions relative to the folly and bad policy of taxing America had been fatally verified, he resolved to make another attempt to rescue his country from the ruin and misery with which it was threatened.

With that view, he moved in the cabinet, that the American post duties should be totally repealed, in which, however, he was out-voted by a majority of one.

There is one measure, that of the Middlesex election, and the previous expulsion of Mr. Wilkes, which has been solely attributed to his Grace.

In 1770 his Grace resigned the post of first commissioner of the treasury, but still continued to support the measures of court. He did not long remain out of office.

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In the succeeding June twelvemonth, he was appointed lord privy seal, in which post he was till the year 1775, when he declared himself boldly and openly against the measures pursued against America.

On the Marquis of Rockingham's again coming into power in 1782, his Grace resumed the office of privy seal, and continued to execute it till the year 1783.

Since that period he has held no ostensible situation under government, though considered amongst its friends.

His Grace is ranger of Whittlebury forest, Northamptonshire, his Majesty's game keeper at Newmarket, receiver general of the profits of the seals in the King's Bench and Common Pleas, chancellor of the university of Cambridge, high steward of Dartmouth, and a knight of the garter, &c.

The Duke of Grafton is one of the most persuasive, or rather pathetic speakers in the House. His speeches are always delivered in the style of a gentleman and a scholar. His judgment in arranging his matter is not excelled, perhaps not equalled, by any one on either side of the House. He is a strict observer of the decorum of debate, and the dignity of the august assembly in which he has the honor to sit. On the whole, he is certainly one of the most able speakers on either side in the British senate.

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The Earl of Euston, his Grace's eldest son, born January the 14th, 1760, is ranger and keeper of Saint James's and Hyde park, lord lieutenant of the county of Suffolk, and colonel of the west regiment of Suffolk militia, and married November the 16th, 1784, Anne Horatia, sister to the present Countess of Waldegrave, and daughter of the second Earl of Waldegrave by the present Duchess of Gloucester.

SIR WATKIN LEWES.

THIS gentleman has two extraordinary *traits* in his history which few will be found to possess. He has been long enough in the political world to have received some very handsome compliments on his public conduct from the late Earl of Chatham, and he has supported the freedom of election with a degree of spirit and perseverance that is supposed to have injured his private fortune to the amount of upwards of *forty thousand pounds*, if we consider the money he has actually expended, and the pecuniary consequences that have arisen from it.

Sir Watkin Lewes, who, in the more early part of his life, visited most of the foreign courts, at least of any consequence, was educated at the University of Cambridge, on leaving which he entered himself a student of the Middle Temple, and was admitted to the bar, which he practised at for upwards of two years, when he quitted the study of the law for the field of politics.

He was elected an alderman of the city of London in the year 1772, and entered into the service of the public with as great a degree of popularity, perhaps, as ever fell to the share of an individual.

The following year he served the office of sheriff. On this occasion he had an opportunity of shewing his spirit in a matter that eventually led to the forming a no inconsiderable *epoch* in the political history of the country. He had been served with notice from the speaker of the House of Commons to summon to Parliament the members within his shrievalty, or bailiwick. In obedience to this order, considering Mr. Wilkes as duly elected for the county of Middlesex, having a majority of the freeholders, though Colonel Luttrell had been declared the sitting member, he thought proper to direct his summons to the former gentleman, and to acquaint Sir Fletcher Norton, the speaker, with the reasons that had induced him to do it. Sir George Saville soon after moved to rescind the resolution of the House by which Colonel Luttrell was declared to be the member, though with a minority of votes, the event of which is well known to the public.

In the year 1773, on the death of Henry Crabb Boulton, Esq. Sir Watkin Lewes, upon the pressing invitation of a very large and respectable body of the electors, who even promised to defray every expence, offered his services to represent the city of Worcester in Parliament. But notwithstanding the manner in which he was pressed to stand forward to support the freedom of election, and the strenuous, firm, and vigorous efforts of the unbiassed part of the corporation, such was the influence used on the part of Captain Bates Rous, his opponent, and the *weighty* reasons offered in his behalf, that Sir Watkin Lewes at the end of the poll was found in a very considerable minority.

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On a petition from him to the House of Commons, complaining of bribery and corruption, the merits of it were referred to a committee under Mr. Grenville's act, and the election declared null and void.

Sir Watkin Lewes again offered his services, and also at the two succeeding elections, in which he was opposed, first by Colonel Lechmere, next by Mr. Walsh, and afterwards by Mr. Walsh and Captain Rous, nabobs of immense fortunes, and also assisted by a certain lord, with the whole weight and influence of his *jagbire*.

The expence fell on Sir Watkin Lewes of bringing the merits of these elections before different committees of the House of Commons, the hearing of which took up from four to six weeks, and on which occasions the abilities of the present lord chief justice of the King's Bench, Mr. Erskine, and Mr. Hardinge, were severally engaged, and some hundreds of the electors kept in town as witnesses during the whole of the time.

As a mark of respect and gratitude the independent part of the electors presented Lady Lewes with an elegant service of China, and a silver tea table, with an inscription bearing the most honorable record of Sir Watkin Lewes's noble and disinterested conduct in his repeated endeavours to support the freedom of election.

The period, however, at length arrived, when his services were called upon as a representative of the people by the metropolis of the British empire. On the death of

Alderman Hayley in 1781, he was elected a member of the city of London after a most spirited poll in opposition to Alderman Clarke, who was supported by a very powerful interest, and has ever since retained that honor.

Sir Watkin Lewes was at that time serving the office of Lord Mayor, in which he was the successor of the unfortunate Brackley Kennett, Esq. though in no part of his conduct, having by his care and vigilance restored the peace and quiet of the city, and established its tranquillity during the trial of Lord George Gordon, for which purpose he put upwards of four hundred gentlemen under arms; and occasionally accommodated them at the Mansion House.

During his mayoralty he also had an opportunity of shewing a mark of respect and politeness to the common council that ought ever to cause him to be held in their most grateful esteem. Through his means the members of that numerous body and their ladies were invited, for the first time, to partake of the entertainment given at Guildhall on what is called the Lord Mayor's day, and to which they have ever since been regularly invited. In Sir Watkin Lewes's mayoralty the foreign ambassadors were also for the first time present at this festival, which is pronounced the grandest of the kind ever given on any similar occasion in any city in Europe.

In Parliament Sir Watkin Lewes has ever proved himself a most active and useful member. It was this gentleman who on the 1st of March, 1786, moved the repeal

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of the shop tax. He was also one of the most distinguished opponents of Mr. Fox's famous India bill from his natural regard to the chartered rights of the company, and indeed, the only one of the city members who did oppose it. And last year he testified his regard for public merit, by procuring the resolutions of the House of Commons for erecting monuments in St. Paul's cathedral to the memory of Lord Heathfield, and Lord Rodney; the former on account of his gallant defence of Gibraltar, and the latter for his great and glorious naval services.

But what places Sir Watkin Lewes highest in the general esteem, and promises most to ensure him the particular approbation of the citizens of London, is the part he has had the honor to take in procuring an act for obtaining not only a respectable, but an efficient militia.

In 1793 he was desired by the court of lieutenancy, and also by the corporation, to bring into Parliament a bill prepared by them and under their patronage, for providing a militia in the city of London, that might hope to vie with that of any other place, instead of the present militia, who remain precisely on the same footing as in the reign of Charles the Second. This bill was approved of by the other city members, and adopted by the House of Commons, and having last year received some trifling alterations, will, no doubt, now be found to provide such a military establishment as will be thought to reflect no little honor on the capital of the British Empire.

With respect to the war, Sir Watkin Lewes has never given his own private opinion. At a general meeting of the most respectable merchants and traders of the city of London held at Merchant Taylor's Hall, and also of another meeting of a considerable majority of the livery of London, a vigorous prosecution of the war was determined on, as the most likely means of procuring an honorable peace, and in obedience to their opinion, Sir Watkin Lewes, who deems it the duty of a representative to act in conformity to the sentiments of his constituents, has always voted on this subject with government;

In 1793 Sir Watkin Lewes declared himself amongst the number of *alarmists*, and is supposed from principle to be much attached to the minister, in the support of whom, he was the only one of the city members at the time he was elected, though he has lived to see all of them act with him as the friends of Mr. Pitt.

Except the honor of knighthood, which he received when Sheriff, and the office of high bailiff of the borough of Southwark, a place of more consequence than emolument, Sir Watkin Lewes has never had any return for his public services, which we trust will, on a future vacancy, be rewarded with the chamberlainship of the city of London, a situation, in which his abilities may be of the greatest use, and the income of which may leave him ample scope for the benevolence of his heart.

GENERAL SAINT LEGER.

GENERAL Saint Leger is descended from a very ancient family of French extraction, the first of which, Sir Robert Sent Legere, attended William, Duke of Normandy, in his expedition to England in 1066, as appears from the roll of Battle Abbey.

Of the time that any of this family settled in Ireland we have no precise date. But the more immediate founder of it was Sir Anthony Saint Leger, who was born at Ulcomb, was a gentleman of the privy chamber to Henry the Eighth, and sent by that monarch there in 1537.

The present General Saint Leger, born the 23d of July, 1756, on the death of his father was taken under the protection of his grandmother. He had his education at Westminster school, and having a strong inclination for the army, purchased a commission in the guards, and soon after was appointed one of the equerries to his Royal Highness the Prince of Wales.

The peculiar intimacy with which he was honored by his Royal Highness, in the very outset of his establishment, is well remembered by the fashionable world. The similarity of their ages, their handsome persons, and manly accomplishments, much attracted the notice of the

beau monde. They were indeed the *Alexander* and the *Hephestion* of the present day.

Launched into a sea of dissipation, in constant habits of intimacy with the Prince, endowed with fine natural and acquired accomplishments, and with the rank of colonel, being appointed a captain in the first regiment of guards the 25th of October 1782, it is not to be wondered at, that his expenses should break in upon the income of his fortune.

He had the wisdom, however, to see it in time, and the manliness of character to set about remedying his mistakes, as soon as he felt them. He accordingly retired to Ireland, about the year 1785, during the viceroyship of his friend the late Duke of Rutland, where he is said to have lived above two years on a scale of retrenchment, but, at the same time, enjoying all the well-known festivities, and splendors of the Rutland administration.

About this time his uncle, Colonel Saint Leger died, and leaving no issue, he bequeathed his nephew all his estates, amounting to above 2,000l. a year. The colonel returned to England about the beginning of the year 1787, and on the 5th of September the same year, was appointed a lieutenant colonel in the first regiment of foot guards.

On his arrival the Prince renewed his intimacies with him, and soon after appointed him one of the grooms of his bedchamber. In this situation he continued, till his Royal Highness the Duke of York took the command
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of the British forces on the continent. Colonel Saint Leger accompanied him as a colonel in the guards, and soon after was appointed deputy adjutant general of the British forces on the continent.

He was present at most of the brilliant actions in which the guards were concerned, and in both situations, as colonel, and deputy adjutant general, acquitted himself with great military reputation.

He returned to England with his Royal Highness the Duke of York, and on the 27th of February, 1795, was raised to the rank of a major general of his Majesty's forces, and a colonel of the sixteenth regiment of dragoon guards; and on the late establishment of the Prince's household, was appointed one of the grooms of the bed-chamber to their Royal Highnesses the Prince and Princess of Wales.

Endowed with talents to grace the senate as well as the field, in 1790 he was elected one of the members of Parliament for Oakhampton in Devonshire, for which place he at present sits with Robert Ladbrooke, Esq.

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Mr.

MR. GILBERT.

THIS gentleman, than whom few have ever proved themselves more useful in the House of Commons, is one of the representatives for Litchfield, in Staffordshire, for which place he was first elected in the year 1768.

He is chairman of the committee of ways and means, and also holds the place of paymaster of pensions to the widows of sea officers.

There is one feature in this gentleman's parliamentary history that must ever strongly mark his character, and shew the real benevolence of his heart.

For upwards of *twenty years* past his endeavours have been used to put the poor laws on a more respectable footing, and it is much to be lamented, that his unwearied toil, and elaborate researches on the subject, should not have produced the success they appear to deserve.

To effect this great and desirable object he has brought several bills into Parliament, and though they have miscarried, it is very much to be suspected, that immense sums of money, raised for the support of the poor, are frequently most shamefully misapplied.

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The principal design of Mr. Gilbert is to incorporate a number of parishes, for the better government, relief, and employment of the poor, upon a plan similar to that adopted with such success in the counties of Norfolk, Suffolk, and other places.

Amongst many other facts, he has stated, that the hundreds of Clavering and Loddon, in Norfolk, consisting of forty-one parishes, were incorporated the 4th of Geo. I. and that their poor rates in 1776, amounted to 2,358*l.* but in 1785 were reduced to 2,257*l.* after paying the interest and principal of 7,000*l.* borrowed for the buildings. The poor rates in fourteen adjoining parishes, which were not incorporated during the same period, increased 349*l.* per annum.

In the hundreds of East and West Flagg, consisting of twenty parishes, which were incorporated the 15th of Geo. III. the poor rates decreased 78*l.* a year during the same period, and in seven adjacent parishes not incorporated, the poor rates increased 254*l.* a year during the same period.

A great number of other instances, equally striking and important, were particularized for the purpose of shewing the vast benefit, and general utility, that would result from the adoption of Mr. Gilbert's plan.

We have given this as the great leading *trait* in this gentleman's character, and certainly nothing can reflect a greater honor on him, than his labouring for many
years

years together, with no other view than to the general good.

But it is by no means the only claim he has to our notice. He has rendered his services on many other matters, and as a speaker, discovers a very ready and useful knowledge of business, and the true interest of the public, which seems on all occasions to actuate his conduct.

GENERAL

GENERAL FITZPATRICK.

IN the year 1770, on Mr. Brand's vacating his seat for Oakhampton, this gentleman was elected a member for that borough, for which he continued to sit till the end of that Parliament, and in 1774 he was chosen for Tavistock, for which place he is at present a representative in the House of Commons.

He is only brother to Lord Upper Ossory, created a British peer the 9th of August 1794, and consequently nearly allied to some of the first families, and ranks as a major general in the army.

Amongst the partisans of Mr. Fox no one has ever been more distinguished. He has uniformly supported him in all his politics, and on the 12th of April, 1783, was appointed secretary at war, in which office he continued during the Duke of Portland's administration.

Since that period he has taken a very active part in reprobating the measures of administration, and particularly in attacking the operations of the war, and every thing that respects the army, whether at home or abroad, to which *post* he succeeded on the death of General Burgoyne, previous to which he moved as a very inferior planet in the great orb of opposition.

In his present station he never fails to exert his abilities in proving, that the army estimates are founded in the grossest errors, that the recruiting service is badly managed, that the war is ignorantly conducted, and that the conduct of administration is altogether wrong, and eventually calculated to destroy the interest and happiness of the British empire.

In private no one is more the gentleman. He has long figured in the *beau monde*, and given into all the elegancies of life, for which he is peculiarly fitted, equally by his personal and mental accomplishments. He possesses no inconsiderable share of wit, taste, and genius, and has every requisite for the *bon vivant*, in which character he has long been known in the first circles.

As a parliamentary speaker, for which he possesses much political knowledge, and great cleverness in manœuvring a point, he is ready and able, and in a good cause, would no doubt appear to much advantage.

EARL

EARL HOWE.

THE right Honorable Richard Howe, Earl Howe, of Langar, in the county of Nottingham, Viscount Howe, Baron of Clarranly in the kingdom of Ireland, Baronet, and commander in chief of the grand fleet of England, was born in the year 1722.

He is the second son of Scrope, Viscount Howe, by Lady Charlotte, daughter to the Baron Kilmansey, in Germany, who was master of the horse to King George the First, as Elector of Hanover. The baroness Kilmansey was daughter to Count Plater of the Empire of Germany, and was herself created first Countess of the province of Leinster in Ireland, and afterwards Baroness of Brentford, and Countess of Darlington in England.

The family of Howe were of distinction in the county of Somerset for several generations. The manor of Langar, in the county of Nottingham, came into the possession of the family by the marriage of John Howe, Esq. with Arabella, daughter of the Earl of Sunderland, whose eldest son, Sir Scrope, was created a baron and viscount, and was succeeded by Scrope, the father of the present Earl Howe, in the year 1713.

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He entered at an early age into the naval service, and on the 10th of April, 1746 was made a post captain in the Triton man of war, and in June 1752 was appointed to the command of the Dolphin.

In the beginning of the year 1755, when Great Britain saw that the designs of France were hostile to this country, Admiral Boscawen was sent with a fleet of observation to stretch along the American coast. In this squadron Earl Howe commanded the Dunkirk. His ship, together with the Defiance, fell in with the Alcide and Lys, two French men of war, which had been separated from the squadron of M. Rois de la Mothe, off Newfoundland. He required them to pay the usual compliment to the British flag, which they refusing, Earl Howe, and Captain Andreas, brought them immediately to action, and that so closely, that a man, killed on the yard arm of one of the French ships, actually fell into the Dunkirk.

They were both captured, and thus did Earl Howe strike the first blow of that memorable war, in which the naval honors of England were carried to so high a pitch: this engagement happened on the 10th of June.

He continued on board this ship until the expedition was formed against Rochfort, when he was appointed to the Magnanime of 74 guns, in the fleet under the command of Admiral Hawke. On this occasion the enterprize failed, and Earl Howe was the only one who gained any honor.

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In the year 1758, Earl Howe was chosen by that great and discerning statesman, the late Earl of Chatham, to command and direct a second expedition to the coast of France, in consequence of which, he set fire to above a hundred sail of ships, many of them privateers, and to several magazines of naval stores.

Soon after this, his lordship had the misfortune to hear of the death of his brother, George Augustus, the third viscount, in America, by which event he succeeded to his title and honors.

In two days after his arrival at Spithead, and disembarking his cannon and trophies, which were exposed in Hyde park to the view of the public, he sailed again, and proceeded towards Saint Maloes, near which the troops were landed by his lordship.

In the following year, 1759, he was appointed to the command of the *Magnanime*, in the fleet under Admiral Hawke, when he greatly contributed to the conquest, and shared in the honors of Quiberon Bay. The noble lord on this occasion kept an incessant fire on the Hero, and obliged her to strike.

In 1760, he commanded an expedition against a fort on the island of Dumet, when the place soon yielded, and was stripped of its cannon and stores. In the same year, he was appointed one of the lords of the bedchamber to the Duke of York. Soon after he was appointed colonel of marines, and in 1762, when the Duke of York, who

had been bred under Earl Howe, went out a rear admiral, he had the noble lord still as a tutor in the quality of captain.

In the year 1763, he was made one of the lords of the admiralty, and in 1765 was appointed treasurer of the navy. He was also promoted to the rank of rear admiral of the blue, and in 1766 to be rear admiral of the white, and lieutenant general of the marines.

His lordship sat in the British House of Commons as one of the representatives in Parliament for the borough of Dartmouth.

When the disorders broke out in America, Earl Howe was made choice of to command the fleet in that part of the world. His conduct in that station, under circumstances of peculiar disadvantage, are still fresh in the minds of the public, and particularly the affair he had with Mons. D'Estaing, who could not make any impression on his line, and was, at length, obliged to yield him a glory scarcely ever paralleled, since his force consisted of only six sail of 64 gun ships, three of 50, two of 40, and some frigates and sloops, while that of the French was twelve sail of line of battle ships, and three frigates. It is not in the power of words to do justice to the animation that blazed forth on this great and splendid occasion.

Meeting with what his lordship considered as an affront, he declared he could no longer act while the Earl of Sandwich was at the head of the admiralty. He therefore retired, but on an inquiry in the House of Commons, he clearly

clearly demonstrated the ability of his conduct, and the greatness of his high professional talents.

On a change of ministry, on the 24th of April, 1782, he was created an English peer, by the stile and title of Viscount Howe, of Langar, in the county of Nottingham, and was promoted to the rank of admiral of the blue, and appointed to the command of the grand fleet.

His lordship soon afterwards sailed with thirty-three sail of the line to the relief of Gibraltar. On the 11th of October, 1782, the noble lord arrived off that place, and relieved it on the 15th, and on the 20th he had a partial action off Cape Spartell with the combined fleet, who sheltered themselves by running into Cadiz. But what redounded particularly to the glory of the British navy, the Spaniards and the French were defeated in their grand attack on Gibraltar, with the loss of ten floating batteries, and four thousand men.

Lord Howe arrived at St. Helena from the relief of Gibraltar the 14th of November, 1783, and upon opening the ensuing session, in the debate on moving the address to his Majesty, on his gracious speech from the throne, his lordship's able and gallant conduct was made a subject of the highest panegyric in both Houses of Parliament.

On the 29th of January, 1783, his lordship was appointed to the high situation of first lord of the admiralty,

which he quitted to Viscount Keppel the 8th of April, 1783, and afterwards resumed the 30th of December, the same year. His lordship held this post with great reputation and additional fame, till the 9th of September, 1788, when he was succeeded by the Earl of Chatham.

On the 19th of August, 1738, his lordship was created an earl of Great Britain, and took his seat accordingly in the House of Peers.

Notwithstanding the great length and brilliancy of his lordship's services, it yet remained for him to give a finish to the lustre of his character. It was not long before a glorious opportunity offered his lordship for doing it most completely and effectually. The French in their usual vaunting strain had long boasted of the superiority of their navy, and had fitted out a fleet against the English, in the success of which, all their hopes and expectations centered. Earl Howe had the command of the Channel fleet, and after being frequently out at sea in quest of the enemy, it was his lordship's happiness to fall in with them on the 31st of May, 1794, on which day, and the 1st of June, the two fleets were engaged in close action, which terminated at length in a complete and decisive defeat of the grand fleet of France.

It is not our purpose to detail the particulars of this extraordinary victory. That task will be the pride of future historians. We shall, therefore, only observe, that the whole nation were loud in their acclamations of joy, which they testified by a general illumination and rejoicing for three nights

nights successively. Both Houses of Parliament unanimously voted their thanks in the most grateful terms to the gallant Admiral on the occasion, and the Sovereign partaking of the universal satisfaction, accompanied by the Queen and part of the royal family, visited him at Portsmouth, when the King, amongst other testimonies of his pleasure, presented him with a magnificent sword, as a mark of his royal approbation, and the high sense he entertained of an action, no less great and signal in itself, than happy and glorious in its consequences; serving equally to raise the reputation of the British empire to the highest pitch of fame, and to crush the naval force of France to a depth of humiliation it had never before experienced, and that too at a moment when she had been audaciously threatening, and vainly imagining the invasion of this country.

The noble Earl is at present admiral of the white, an elder brother of the Trinity House, and a lord of trade and plantation.

His lordship married Mary, daughter of Major Harlop, of Welby, in Leicestershire, by whom he has several daughters; one of them in May 1787 was married to Lord Altamont, of the kingdom of Ireland, and another, in the month of August in the same year, to Ashton Curzon, Esq.

To say that the noble Earl is one of the best seamen Great Britain ever knew would be no sort of information to the public. His naval talents, and professional know-

ledge, are well known, and have long been the admiration and praise of the British navy. He is a strict disciplinarian without being rigid or severe; he preserves a dignity of conduct without any austerity of manners; and invites by his high character a respect which he never could command.

As to his bravery and courage, the enemy have often felt and acknowledged their effects.

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MR. MINCHIN.

THIS gentleman was elected a member of Parliament for Oakhampton in 1778, on Mr. Wedderburne's vacating his seat. He was also returned for the same place in 1780, and in 1784; and in 1790 he was chosen for Boffiney, in Cornwall, for which place he at present sits with the honorable James Stewart, brother to the Earl of Bute.

He has in his parliamentary conduct always been amongst the most conspicuous of those who have opposed the measures of administration, except from the 16th of April, 1783, to the 27th of December in the same year, during which space of time, he filled the office of clerk of the ordnance, under the Duke of Portland's ministry.

Though in place little more than eight months, he seems to have acquired a degree of knowledge in that period, that has rendered him infinitely above the most experienced adepts in the military and naval concerns of government. Hence, all estimates, and especially those respecting ships and seamen, are continually exposed to his strictures, which he is thought to apply with more severity than judgment.

This gentleman, in the junction he has formed with opposition, seems to have succeeded the late Mr. James Luttrell, whose somnific harangues on nautical affairs so often exhausted the patience of the House.

This occasioned it once to be remarked by Mr. Pitt, "that the honorable gentleman, as if afraid that his *voice* and *eloquence* would contract *rust*, had determined to keep it exercised by constant debate. He would debate without grounds, and merely for debating sake. Opposition, however, acted wisely and properly. Whenever the matter in debate was trifling and insignificant in its nature, they placed in the front of the line to lead on the debate, the *most grave of all the orators*, an orator, who by his *great professional skill*, of which he had so often made a *splendid display*, had been enabled frequently to *entertain* them upon naval and military affairs."

Mr. Minchin as a speaker generally goes into great length, and always expresses himself in a serious and solemn manner.

He is lieutenant-colonel of the Hampshire militia, and in private life much respected and esteemed.

MARQUIS

MARQUIS OF LANSDOWN.

THIS celebrated nobleman, who exhibits in his history one of the most extraordinary characters, perhaps, that ever appeared in the political world, was in the cabinet, as one of his Majesty's principal secretaries of state in the year 1767, under the administration of the late Earl of Chatham, which proved in its dissolution, no less remarkable, than in its formation.

His lordship's concern in the affair of Corsica will be found to form in his parliamentary conduct a very early and extraordinary *trait* of that character, which the noble lord seems long since to have established in the opinion of the world.

In the summer of 1767, the views of France upon Corsica became too apparent to be any longer permitted with indifference by an English administration. The Marquis of Lansdown, then Earl Shelburne, secretary of state for the southern department, with the approbation of the other members of the cabinet, gave instructions to our minister at the French court to remonstrate against the measure of making a conquest of Corsica. Choiseul, who knew the imbecility of those ministerial shadows that then occupied the several responsible offices of the state, treated

treated the remonstrance with the contempt that was naturally to be expected.

The noble lord, Lord Rochford, who made it, could not endure this situation, but instantly, and without leave or notice from either side of the water, returned to England. The consequence of this was, that the French ambassador here received the fullest assurances, and from an authority that could not be questioned, that the Marquis of Lansdown acted entirely on his own head. The remonstrance was disclaimed by the other members of administration. His lordship was dismissed, and the very person who remonstrated was appointed secretary of state.

His lordship from that instant commenced a violent partizan against the measures of the court, and on many occasions proved himself a very powerful adversary, though he joined the minister in the measure of new-modelling the East India company, and some other matters of less consequence.

The noble Marquis, at least, in his parliamentary speeches, vehemently contended for the supreme dominion of this country over all its members and dependencies, as exercised through that true constitutional medium, the executive powers of the state. On this ground he maintained the prerogative of the sovereign, respecting the exclusive unconditional right he possesses of ordering and directing the military force of the nation, under the dernier controul of Parliament, and the inher-

rent

rent right of the legislature to enact certain laws that shall be binding on all the members of the empire.

His lordship insisted on the power of the sovereign of Great Britain to send or order his troops to America, or Ireland, or withdraw them at pleasure. He also urged that he can no more part with this grand prerogative, notwithstanding any promise, concession, or engagement he may have made, or may hereafter make, than he can with his crown.

He was, on the other hand, equally clear, that Parliament had no right to tax *unrepresented* America. His lordship laid it down as a fixed principle in the constitution, that all native subjects are entitled to equal privileges, the most important and leading of which is the granting their own money.

On the 10th of July, 1782, his lordship came again into power, and was appointed first lord of the treasury, which situation he held till the 5th of April, 1783, when he was succeeded by the Duke of Portland.

The principal feature in his lordship's short administration was, the negotiating and concluding a general peace, which he had the happiness to effect the 3d of September, 1783, much to the satisfaction of both Houses of Parliament, and the nation at large.

His lordship has of late taken an active part against administration, and been amongst the most pointed of those,

those, who have stood forward to condemn, as unconstitutional and dangerous, the publicly subscribing in all the different counties to the internal defence of the kingdom, though the noble lord himself, as was justly observed by the right honorable Mr. Ryder, when in office, actually wrote a circular letter for the very purpose of recommending and encouraging a similar measure.

In the opposition *buc* and *cry* raised against the war, his lordship is amongst the loudest, and declares, "he has no doubt but that France would treat for peace with administration;" although in his usual mode of negating what he previously admits, he added, with no small share of *self-confidence*, and a *sigh*! "that nevertheless other men might negotiate on better terms;" after which his lordship concluded, in the true style of the *fox* and the *grapes*, by saying "that he does not want to serve a prince against his will."

On this occasion his lordship should remember what was said in the year 1787 by Mr. Fox. His words are, "refer to the records of the best, and the most authentic historians, and it will be found, that France has been most inclined to peace, when she has been most *humiliated* and *degraded*. This country has been often charged with having borne herself arrogantly and dictatorially after the close of a triumphant war. But, *has it ever been said, that success has checked the pride, or reduced the overweening ambition of France?*—Past experience has proved, that whenever France has seen
" this

"this country weak, and thought her incapable of
 "effectually resisting, she has seized the opportunity,
 "and aimed at effecting her *long-desired destruction*."

Mr. Fox then wisely warned ministers to be very
 cautious in *negotiating* with France. "If ministers,
 "said he, suppose that France acts upon a principle of
 "*sincerity and friendship* to us, let them point out the
 "*proofs* of that friendship."

On the subject of peace there appears to be but one
 sentiment. This, however, artifice divides, by endeavouring to insinuate, that government is not for a *solid*
 peace, because it is not for an *infidious truce*. The
 opposition would forego every thing to obtain the *latter*;
 Administration would forego every thing, but the honor
 and safety of the country, to obtain the *former*. Which
 of the two are right, the nation can easily judge.

His lordship the 30th of November, 1784, was created an English marquis. Besides Marquis of Lansdown, his lordship is also Earl Wycombe, Viscount Calne and Conston, and Lord Wycombe, likewise Earl of Shelburne, Viscount Fitzmaurice, and Baron Dunkerton, of Ireland, and a knight of the most noble order of the garter.

He was born in 1736, and married in 1765 the daughter of John, earl of Granville. His lordship married secondly July 19, 1760, Louisa Fitz-Patrick, sister to the Earl of Upper Ossory.

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His lordship's father was John, second son of Thomas, earl of Kerry, who being made heir to his uncle's large estate, took the surname and arms of Petty; was created Viscount Fitzmaurice, and Baron Dunkerton, October 7, 1751, and Earl of Shelburne, in the county of Waterford, June 26, 1753, and was created May 17, 1760, Baron of Wycombe, in the county of Bucks.

Of the Marquis of Lansdown's liberality in the encouragement of literature, and men of merit and genius, public report has always been extremely lavish; and as to his personal courage, his lordship gave a very ample proof of it in his duel with Colonel Fullarton the 22d of March, 1780, in Hyde Park.

His talents as a parliamentary speaker are well known. He abounds in information both foreign and domestic, at all times highly deserving the attention of his noble auditory, and, indeed, of the very ministers whose measures he opposes.

His speeches are most judiciously conceived, are sententious, and correct, and never fail of impressing his sentiments in the most pointed and perspicuous manner. His general acquaintance with books, with the political history of Europe, the particular movements of the different cabinets, the general interests of commerce, and especially those of the British empire, are evident and splendid proofs of his extraordinary industry, and comprehensive judgement.

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In fine, he is one of the most powerful and useful speakers in the House of Lords on the part of opposition.

On the other hand, his harangues, though delivered with facility, have too much the appearance of art and study; while his constant appeals to the candor and indulgence of his hearers, are evidently mere traps for applause, and by their frequent repetition, often become both tiresome and disgusting.

Indeed, in the opinion of those, who have been most in the habit of attending to his lordship, his speeches in Parliament are more like the *trimming* orations of an artful partizan, teeming with the inconsistency of *affirmation* and *negation*, than the clear and manly sentiments of a great and eminent statesman.

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